

FOCUS

GEORGIA FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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MISSION
Educating and
Empowering
Women for Better
Government

GFRW elects new officers for 2018-2019; selects Judy True as Woman of the Year

By Cindy Theiler
FOCUS editor & 3rd vice president



Marietta was the place for Republican women to be Oct. 6-7 as the Georgia Federation of Republican Women hosted its fall board of directors meeting and 30th annual biennial convention. New officers for 2018-2019 were elected and long-time GFRW member Judy True was selected by organization members as its woman of the year.

L to R:
Barbara Hickey
Sarah (Sally) Snyder
Denise Ognio
Johnell Woody
Linda Williams
Kelli Warren
Joyce Hinton

GFRW elects new officers

Officers selected to serve as of Jan. 1, 2018:

President: Joyce Hinton, of the Republican Women's Club of Henry County
1st vice president: Kelli Warren, of Republican Women of Forsyth County
2nd vice president: Linda Williams, of the Gwinnett Republican Women's Club
3rd vice president: Victoria Gunther, of the Haralson County Republican Women's Club
Secretary: Johnell Woody, of the Cobb County Republican Women's Club
Treasurer: Denise Ognio, of the Greater Fayette Republican Women's Club
Assistant treasurer: Sarah (Sally) Snyder of the Gwinnett Republican Women's Club

In addition, current GFRW President Barbara Hickey will serve as past president.

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Georgia Federation of Republican Women

**Mission: Educating and Empowering
Women for Better Government**

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FOCUS Newsletter

**Cindy Theiler — FOCUS editor and associate editor,
VOICES Magazine**

**Sherry Roedl — VOICES Magazine editor and
publications chair, GFRW**

**Judy True — Layout & design editor and editor-in-
chief, VOICES Publications**

Bobbie Frantz — Editor of digital media

**Photos provided by — Lydia Hallmark, Bette
Tempest, and Cindy Theiler**

This online newsletter, containing GFRW and club news, is published three times per year. The newsletter committee invites you to submit your ideas for topics and club news to include in upcoming editions. Please send items to FOCUS editor at cindy.theiler1@gmail.com. This is YOUR publication; we welcome your suggestions and input!

Disclaimer: Bylined articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of GFRW, VOICES Publications, or that of the FOCUS staff.

President's Message



By Barbara Hickey

Dear GFRW ladies,

Thank you for a wonderful two years of sharing ideas, meeting club members and traveling to your clubs to hear all the great projects that you do for your members and communities.

My term will be over on Jan. 1, 2018. How quickly time has passed! As past president, I will continue to see you at the meetings and do whatever our new GFRW president asks of me.

I may not have told you that I was an Army officer's wife and led many Officers' wives clubs. Like YOU, they were dedicated to their communities and worked hard to make the community better than they found it. I learned so much from the senior officer wives and they welcomed me because I was eager to learn and work hard. Moving 13 times in 27 years was a great experience and taught me that there are 3 things those members of any organization want from their leaders:

DO YOU CARE FOR ME? A LEADER MUST VALUE PEOPLE MORE THAN PROJECTS.

CAN YOU HELP ME? YOU MUST HAVE A TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MEMBERS. IF YOU HELP THEM THEY WILL HELP YOU.

CAN I TRUST YOU? YOU MUST BE TRUE TO YOUR WORD, COMPASSIONATE, AND CONSISTENT.

I know that you will continue to build your clubs, have new ideas, and be very successful. I wish the very best for YOU!

Barbara Hickey
2017-2018 GFRW President

GFRW Meeting in Marietta

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Judy True elected woman of the year

In other voting, Judy True, **VOICES** Publications editor-in-chief and GFRW's 9th district director, was selected by GFRW members as woman of the year. This award is given typically every two years to honor an outstanding GFRW member who has made the most outstanding contribution to the Federation through her work in GFRW, the Republican Party and her community service.

In addition to serving **VOICES** since 2006 and volunteering as a 9th district director for the last four years, True also has served as: co-chair of the National Federation of Republican Women's special projects committee with Sherry Roedl for the last four years; membership chair of the Republican Women of Hall; and precinct officer with the Hall County GOP. She has also served on the GFRW board of directors and as the organization's vice president in 2012-2013. In the community, she serves as the newsletter layout editor for the Gainesville Newcomers Club.

Others nominated by GFRW's executive board for this award were Carol Field of Gwinnett Republican Women's Club and Lydia Hallmark of Paulding County Republican Women's Club.

John Watson welcomes GFRW

John Watson, Georgia's new GOP chair, welcomed participants to the board of directors meeting, and told them that the Georgia GOP "is on the move, on the march." He stated that significant changes are underway with the GOP. These changes include reducing staff and overhead, raising \$620,000 in pledges, reconstructing the GOP website to make it more relevant, and working through the Party's inherited obligations and debts.

Watson said the Republican Party has lots of work to do to prepare for the 2018 campaign. "A united Republican Party is still an unstoppable force in Georgia Republican politics." He encouraged everyone to support their favorite candidates, but then unite with the Republican candidates who are on the ballot. He also encouraged members to subscribe to the GOP's newsletter.



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GFRW Meeting in Marietta

Continued from page 3

Treasurer's report

Sarah (Sally) Snyder, GFRW's treasurer, reported the club's balance as of Sept. 30 was \$6,165.80.

Other notes from these meetings and planned activities included:

Hearing from a number of candidates, including gubernatorial candidates – Hunter Hill, Clay Tippins, and Michael Williams; insurance commissioner candidate Jim Beck; and Republican national committeeman candidates Jason Thompson and Chris West.

Watching a 3-minute video update from Washington, D.C., from U.S. Senator David Perdue of Georgia, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Having the opportunity to tour the new Atlanta Braves stadium, which included getting to see and sit in the press box. About 20 women participated in this outing.

Having the opportunity to participate in an all-day campaign management school prior to the board meeting that was coordinated by Cobb County Republican Women Club members Rose Wing and Johnell Woody.

Recognizing outgoing president Barbara Hickey. Members of the outgoing board of directors and Cobb County Republican Women's Club presented various gifts to Hickey for her service and leadership.

GFRW resolutions commend GFRW members and U.S. president

Two presidents - GFRW President Barbara Hickey and U.S. President Donald Trump - were recognized with resolutions during the biennial convention. Hickey, who has served as GFRW's president for the past two years, was commended for her service and dedication to the organization.

The resolution supporting Trump was written by Lis Sears, a member of Republican Women of Gilmer County. According to RWGC President Sally Forest, the resolution began as a letter that Sears drafted to send to members of Congress. After sharing it with her club to get members' support, the club decided to send it to GFRW convention's resolutions committee to get input from its members. Forest said she was very excited to see this resolution passed. (To read this resolution, see page 20)

In addition to resolutions in support of presidents, GFRW members also approved a resolution honoring Judy True and the **VOICES** publications team (including Sherry Roedl, Cindy Theiler, Bobbie Frantz, and Ullainee Stokes). The resolution recognized True and the team for its "exceptional, long-time contribution to GFRW and for providing a voice to and for the Republican Party, particularly Republican women."

GFRW members also approved some other resolutions that were approved by members of the National Federation of Republican Women at its biennial conference in September.

GFRW members elect district directors

Directors selected by members of their respective districts are:

3rd district – Jeanne Billa

4th district – Cheryl Swartz

6th district – Natalie Olmi

7th district – Carol Field

8th district – Linda Clements

9th district – Jena Yarborough

11th district – Rosan Hall

12th district – Ye Sun Wiltse

13th district – Della Ashley

14th district – Lydia Hallmark

GFRW fundraisers raise funds for club; CCRWC member Rowe wins raffle

GFRW members helped the club's organization increase its coffers by hosting a raffle and also selling Republican women bumper stickers and GOP scarves.

Donna Rowe, of the Cobb County Republican Women's Club, was the lucky winner of the \$300 gift card to American Outdoors in Smyrna. GFRW members sold 257 tickets for the raffle, according to Sarah (Sally) Snyder, the club's treasurer.

GFRW Secretary Bobbie Frantz also provided bumper stickers touting leadership of Republican women and Ginger Howard, national committeewoman, provided some white scarves with red elephants – the Republican symbol and color -- to sell.

Thanks to all members for helping to make our fundraiser so successful by selling and purchasing items to support GFRW!

GFRW Meeting in Marietta

Continued from page 4

GFRW club leadership academy

GFRW members who graduated from the club's Leadership Academy were recognized with a certificate on Oct. 7.

Pictured are: (L to R) Rosan Hall, Cheryl Lenney, Kappy Morris, Bobbie Frantz and Eleanor Toppins. Not pictured are: Judy True, Judy Newell, Wynn McCurdy, Marsha James, and Victoria Gunther.



Outgoing GFRW executive committee

Outgoing executive committee members posed one last time for a group photo. Pictured are (L to R) Rose Wing, parliamentarian; Denise Ognio, assistant treasurer; Sarah (Sally) Snyder, treasurer; Cindy Theiler, 3rd vice president; Joyce Hinton, 2nd vice president; Elaine Pritchard, 1st vice president; and Barbara Hickey, president.



Campaign Management School



Above: Attendees learn new skills for upcoming elections and campaigns.

Left: Rose Wing and Johnell Woody

GFRW members had the opportunity to participate in an all-day campaign management school prior to the board meeting that was coordinated by Cobb County Republican Women Club members Rose Wing and Johnell Woody.



Convention Scrapbook



GFRW gets first-hand look at new stadium



GFRW visits the stadium press box



Flowers for outgoing President Barbara Hickey



Registration

Convention Scrapbook



Member News



Molly Cooper, past president of Republican Women of Forsyth County, just announced her candidacy for Forsyth County District 1 commission seat.



Elaine Pritchard, GFRW 1st vice president and member of Middle Georgia Republican Women, was selected to participate in the 2018 class of Republican Leadership for Georgia. The mission of this organization is "to fill



Chris Waldman, of the Cobb County Republican Women's Club, recently held her Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament in Ellijay. The event, which provides scholarships for the

seniors in sport, raised about \$20K and has provided 54 scholarships from \$500 to \$1500 during the last two years.

the ranks of Georgia's Republicans with trained leaders: people who are committed to the tradition of full participation in the political process, people who believe in Republican principles, and people who are willing to be or support candidates, to serve as state or local appointees and/or to work building the Party's success at the grassroots level."

NFRW convention in Philadelphia

Founded in 1938, the NFRW is the largest and most influential Republican women's group in the nation, proudly representing the party that first made it possible for women to vote in the U.S.

The NFRW works to increase the effectiveness and relevance of women in the cause of good government. Its mission remains to recruit and elect Republican candidates, promote the principles of the Republican Party, educate the public, and inform the media

GFRW women attend NFRW convention

Six GFRW members attended the National Federation of Republican Women's 39th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia in mid-September. Those attending were:

Barbara Hickey, GFRW president
Rose Wing, Cobb County
Republican Women's Club
Dee Gay, Cobb County Republican
Women's Club
Linda Williams, Gwinnett Republican
Women's Club
Carol Field, Gwinnett Republican
Women's Club
Debra Coulter, Gwinnett Republican
Women's Club

Four Coastal Republican Women's Club members registered to attend the convention, but could not travel due to hurricane Irma.

Biennial NFRW achievement awards go to Georgia clubs

"The NFRW Achievement Awards program is designed to enhance teamwork among members of each

club," said NFRW Achievement Awards Chair Gwen Ecklund of Iowa. Using the Achievement Awards worksheet as a guide for planning club activities produces a well-balanced club program. It establishes standards of performance for club functions, membership development, programs, campaign activities, and community relations.

"An outstanding number of clubs from across the country responded with entries in our biennial achievement awards program," Ecklund said. "It's great to recognize these clubs for their achievements, but it's even more exciting to see the results of their focused programming and outreach in their communities that increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government. Reading the award applications confirms the impact NFRW members have in promoting the principles of freedom, equality, and justice upon which our government is founded."

Georgia clubs earn NFRW Diamond Award;

Sue Marshall honored for membership recruitment

Two GFRW clubs -- Gwinnett Republican Women's Club and Savannah Area Republican Women -- won the national Diamond Award for Achievement during the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) 39th Biennial Convention held Sept. 14-17 in Philadelphia. More than 425 awards were given to clubs that



GFRW President Barbara Hickey (L) and Linda Williams, (R) president of the Gwinnett Republican Women, pose with Carrie Almond, NFRW's outgoing president, with Diamond award certificates

demonstrated excellence in membership development, campaign activities, community relations programs, and club functions over the past two years.

Other honorees included:

Sue Marshall, of the Cobb County Republican Women's Club (CCRWC), was recognized for her work as an outstanding club member for membership recruitment.

GFRW was recognized with the Betty Heitman Award for state excellence. This award is presented to states that demonstrate excellence, achievement or accomplishment in community relations, programs, campaign activities, and state functions.

Central Savannah River Republican Women and CCRWC - the Gold Award for Achievement; Coastal Republican Women's Club - Silver; and Coweta County Republican Women's Club, Middle Georgia Republican Women, and South Fulton Republican Women - Bronze.

Caring . . . and Sharing

See what some of our clubs have been up to! Please share your club news so we all can learn from each other.



Coastal Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Sandra Mull

Judge Alex Atwood, chief magistrate of Glynn County and a former member of the Georgia House of Representatives, spoke to CRWC members at their September luncheon meeting. At the club's August meeting, David Sharpe, a combat veteran, spoke about his experiences in Afghanistan. CRWC is planning a Christmas party to take place in December.

Cobb County Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Cindy Theiler

CCRWC is scheduled to hold its annual veterans celebration luncheon on Oct. 28 at the Hilton Marietta Conference Center in Marietta beginning at 11 a.m. The 15th annual event will feature Sgt. Clint Van Winkle, Iraqi Freedom vet, filmmaker and author, as the speaker. For more information, contact Dee Gay at 770-265-4949.

Columbia County Republican Women

Contributed by Ye Sun Wiltse



Members of CCRW listen to the speaker – Hunter Hill, Georgia gubernatorial candidate - during recent meeting.

CCRW has had a fabulous year, including hosting consequential speakers who addressed important issues for conservatives. The meeting attendance has increased significantly this year. Three of 2017 meetings drew more than 70 people per meeting, and other meetings averaged between 50-60 attendees.

Some speakers and their topics are included below:

Phil Kent, editor of *Advantage*, provided a political analysis on the 2016 presidential election and a look at 2017 and beyond.

David Bores discussed the dangers of Sharia Laws encroachment in America

Chris Farrell, of *Judicial Watch*, spoke about ongoing efforts to keep Hillary Clinton accountable for her exposing U.S. secrets by keeping an unsecured personal server to do State Department business.

Congressman Jody Hice, a member of the Freedom Caucus, provided a legislative update from Washington D.C.

Gail Griffin, Arizona state senator, shared information about the dangers of drug and human trafficking across the U.S.'s unsecured borders.

The club also heard from Georgia Rep. Jodi Lott, Lt. Gov. candidate David Shafer, and Hunter Hill, state senator and gubernatorial candidate, who participated in the club's Sept. 11 remembrance meeting. In April, the club also held its annual membership picnic – a day of fun and games.

Coweta County Republican Women

Contributed by Amy Emerich

Special guests at the CCRWC's lunch in September were Cindy Hughes, director, and Jill Gerard, client services manager for Coweta Pregnancy Services.

Continued on next page

Caring . . . and Sharing

Floyd County Republican Women

Contributed by Lydia Hallmark



The Floyd County Republican Women hosted 14th District Congressman Tom Graves (pictured) at the club's August meeting. He addressed a packed room at the Red Lobster in Rome. The group had many questions about Obamacare and the Trump agenda.

Gwinnett Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Linda Williams

The Gwinnett Republican Women's Club sponsored a State Chairman's Candidate Forum on May 8 at the county headquarters. BJ Van Gundy did an amazing job as moderator, and all four candidates attended. Many state convention delegates were in attendance, as well as many others who were interested in the candidate who will become our new Georgia GOP state chairman.

Haralson County Republican Women

Contributed by Victoria Gunther



During the August GOP meeting, the Haralson County Republican Women presented Robert Smith, chairman of the Haralson County Republican Party, with a donation for the 2018

scholarship fund that benefits two outstanding high school seniors annually. This is just one of the many ways the HCRW helps its community and the GOP. Pictured with Smith (R) are (L to R): Barbara Ridley, former county tax commissioner; Judy Ridley; Sherri Mobley, current tax commissioner; Ruth Fambrough; Betty Rae Stried, HCRW past president; Rosanna Birky, treasurer; and Victoria Gunther, president.

Middle Georgia Republican Women

Contributed by Elaine Pritchard



Eighteen members of MGRW volunteered for lots of different roles at the 8th District GOP Annual Fish Fry on Aug. 26 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry. More than 1,000 attended to hear from candidates for statewide offices, including governor, lieutenant governor, superintendent of education, insurance commissioner, secretary of state, and others. In addition, Sonny Perdue, former Georgia governor and current U.S. secretary of agriculture, and U.S. Senator David Perdue also attended. Vivien Scott spoke for her husband, U.S. Rep. Austin Scott, who was out of the country visiting U.S. troops. The event included catfish, beauty queens, cloggers, a brass quintet, handshakes and hugs, and delicious watermelon served by Georgia Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black and his wife, Lydia. MGRW appreciated GFRW President Barbara Hickey helping at our table! Lots of fun for everyone and MGRW was there to help in a big way!

North DeKalb Republican Women

Contributed by Merrie Soltis



Club members pose with Carrie Almond, NFRW's president, in front of the bus.

Continued on next page

Caring . . . and Sharing

North DeKalb—continued



North DeKalb and Central DeKalb Republican Women enjoy lunch together in June.

NDRW held its annual lunch with Central DeKalb Republican Women in June. The club hosted Carrie Almond, NFRW's president, and others who were campaigning for Karen Handel for Congress.

Paulding County Republican Women's Club Contributed by Lydia Hallmark

Carolyn Hall Fisher, 1st vice chair of the Georgia Republican Party (3rd from R) spoke to the Paulding County Republican Women's Club members at its meeting in July about issues facing the state GOP and how to grow our local parties. Pictured with her are (L to R) Nancy Hollingshed, Helen Story, Lindsay Carlson, PCRWC vice president; Lydia Hallmark, GFRW's 14th district director; and Mariam Corbin. In August, PCRWC hosted Paulding Board of Education members Jeff Fuller and Glen Albright. Kim Cobb, BOE member attended and took part in the discussion.

Republican Women of Forsyth County Contributed by Kelli Warren



Kelli Warren with U. S. congressmen Doug Collins, Trey Gowdy and Rob Woodall

The RWFC club was very busy this summer in addition to its monthly meetings that traditionally feature a guest speaker and two candidates. The club assisted the Forsyth GOP with the July 3rd candidate BBQ and the 1st Annual FoCo Stump Stop in August with Congressman Trey Gowdy as the keynote speaker.



In September, several members participated in the United Way's Day of Caring where more than 146,000 meals were packaged. Our club sponsored 1,000 meals for \$250. In addition, RWFC purchased four

sets of the Rush Revere children's books for M.E.L.P. - to be donated to our local public libraries in November. RWFC members are also looking forward to packing cookies and other goodies for soldiers with Treat the Troops Southern Style in November. The club plans to hold its Christmas holiday party on Dec. 2 at a local restaurant and kick off 2018 with a candidate meet and greet social on Jan. 25.

Republican Women of Gilmer County Contributed by Sally Forest

RWGC has had a busy year, including picking up trash for Adopt-a-Road, donating books to the Gilmer County Library, meeting and touring at Chateau Meichtry Winery in Ellijay, and hosting Georgia GOP leaders.



Above left. RWGC members pick up trash as part of the Adopt-a-Road program in Gilmer County in July.

Above right. Carolyn Hall Fisher, (2nd from L) now 1st vice chair of the Georgia GOP, posing with RWGC members.

Continued next page

Caring . . . and Sharing

Republican Women of Hall

Contributed by Judy True

Republican Women of Hall has had a busy summer and fall. The club welcomed new members at its New Member Coffee in June. In addition, RWH helped sponsor the Hall County GOP annual Patriotic Picnic at the lake and provided the dessert, watermelon and advertising. In August, RWH hosted the Annual Education Forum. Forum moderator Martha Zoller introduced Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods and Suzanne Jarrard, principal at Chestatee High School. Bill Kokaly, field representative for Georgia Congressman Doug Collins, was featured at the club's September meeting. Attendees participated in a discourse on the accomplishments and progress regarding voting by the U.S. House of Representatives.



Scholarship winner Macon Shakelford (center) poses with Eleanor Toppins (R) as Nancy Craig, the club's 2nd vice president and fundraising chair, looks on at the podium. Not pictured is Peggy Gau, scholarship committee chair.

Savannah Area Republican Women

Contributed by Carol St. Arnaud

Ann Purcell, state transportation board representative, spoke to the SARW at its September meeting.

South Fulton Republican Women

Contributed by Suzanne Holland



Republican Women of Henry County

Contributed by Eleanor Toppins

RWHC held a fundraiser fashion show and college scholarship presentation on July 8. The event, headed up by Nancy Craig, RWHC 2nd vice president and fundraiser chairman, was extremely successful. Almost everything was donated and the event raised more than \$4,000 with just about \$300 in expenses. In addition, a \$1,000 scholarship was given to a high school senior, Macon Shakelford, who will attend Auburn University.



The Georgia Republican Party's Chairman Award was presented to Ann Hill at the SFRW meeting in June. Emma Hinesley accepted the award on Hill's behalf at the GA GOP State Convention in Augusta in June. Pictured (L to R) are Suzanne Holland, Hill, and Hinesley.



Committee News

Armed Services

GFRW clubs were busy supporting the United States military, veterans and their families during the last two years. Some clubs have shared the following activities they have supported:

Chattahoochee Republican Women's Club

Under the leadership of the North DeKalb Republican Women, CRWC purchased water and snacks for 100 service personnel and spent a Saturday in September greeting the members of the Armed Forces and inviting them up to the USO room at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, and helping to serve food.

In the spring, CRWC welcomed home to Roswell the U.S. service veterans, policemen, and firemen as they returned from a trip to Washington D.C. where they visited memorials and the Vietnam Memorial Wall. This trip was organized by Georgia Sen. John Albers.

Submitted by Barbara Hartman and Laurie Padgett

North DeKalb Republican Women

(Please see Natalie Olmi's personal story beginning on page 15.)

Republican Women of Forsyth County

The Republican Women of Forsyth County are planning to participate in Treat the Troops Southern Style by packing homemade goodies, etc. every other month starting Nov. 9. The club's committee, chaired by Sarai Aguayo, is also working on some additional plans.

Women's Republican Club of Richmond County

The Women's Republican Club of Richmond County (WRCRC) partnered with the Fisher House – Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in June 2016 and the club is honored to continue its partnership with the Fisher House. Anne Arnold, house manager, spoke at WRCRC's June meeting, provided a "wish list" of items needed, and a protocol was established. Each month WRCRC's

secretary contacts Arnold to determine which item or items from the "wish list" are needed. Members are asked to bring designated items to our monthly meeting. These items are collected and delivered to the Fisher House. In addition, WRCRC donated water and snack items left over from the 2017 Georgia GOP convention that members procured and packed in swag bags. Members also decorated the Fisher House for the Christmas holidays in November 2016 and attended a retirement reception for Arnold in August.

Submitted by Sharon Fry

South Fulton Republican Women's Club

In December 2015 and 2016, the club collected restaurant and grocery store gift cards and sent them to the Fisher House in Augusta. The cards were distributed to guests by the house manager.

In the summer of 2016, the club delivered snacks to the Newnan VA outpatient clinic. Patients are usually getting fasting blood work done and need a snack when that procedure is completed. VFW post 2667 distributes the snacks inside the clinic.

Submitted by Suzanne Holland

Legislation – National

As we head into Gov. Deal's final session under the Gold Dome, transportation and healthcare issues continue to be front and center. Rep. Rob Woodall and other members of Congress have been traveling around the state with state legislators to discuss a new way forward in transportation from a federal and state perspective. In addition, the uncertainty of the healthcare markets, including the individual, group, and Medicare/Medicaid markets, continues. As I write this, it is unsure what the Congress will do and how that will impact the state of Georgia. Be sure to stay in touch with your state representatives and state senators as things are unfolding rapidly.

Submitted by Martha Zoller

Committee News

Caring for America Committee

As Republicans, we believe the role of government is to provide its citizens only those critical functions which cannot be performed by individuals, private organizations, or businesses. Therefore, we must rise to the call of reaching out to the least and the lost.

George H. W. Bush once praised the tremendous power of community and volunteer organizations as "a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky." Let us be that light to others. Let your light shine!



Below are some ways the Texas GOP has suggested to help its residents following Hurricane Harvey:

San Antonio Food Bank: www.safoodbank.org

Central Texas Food Bank: www.centraltexasfoodbank.org

Red Cross Volunteers: www.redcross.org

Salvation Army Supplies Donation

Collection: www.salvationarmy.org

Dallas Evacuee Donations: www.trustedworld.org

Texas Diaper Bank-Donations: www.texasdiaperbank.org

Submitted by Kim Sherk

GFRW clubs and members support Texas Federation sisters

GFRW clubs and members opened their wallets to help their fellow sisters in Texas who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Following the support plea from NFRW's Carrie Almond, our clubs and members graciously provided \$1,820 in gift cards to Home Depot, Lowe's, Kroger or Wal-Mart, to help members of Texas Federation of Republican Women. The gift cards were sent to TFRW to distribute to those in need.

In addition, the Republican Women of Henry County collected used purses from various organizations and filled them all with lotions, toothbrushes, toothpaste, chap stick, deodorant, soaps, shampoos, various hygiene products, a card with a personal note and \$5 to let them know we in Georgia were thinking about them and praying for them. Under the direction of chairman Peggy Gau, RWHC shipped 99 full purses to Texas for Hurricane Harvey ladies. We found a national trucking firm in McDonough that provided the truck and driver to go to Texas with the goodies. Other companies donated water, diapers, insect repellent, and various canned goods to fill up the tractor-trailer. RWHC got the GOP in Henry and Rockdale counties to participate a little and the Women of the Moose donated a dozen empty purses along with lotions and some of the above-mentioned items to help make this project very successful. Every- thing was shipped to Texas on Sept. 8.

Thank you all so much for your generosity and support of our Republican sisters in Texas! Their hearts will be filled with joy!

Submitted by Cindy Theiler, GFRW 3rd vice president



VOLUNTEER

**WE NEED THEM.
THEY NEED US.**

WE NEED YOU.

By Natalie Olmi,
Caring for America chair,
North DeKalb Republican Women

(Author's note: This is a composite tribute story from our NDRW USO volunteers and is dedicated to all men and women who serve our country.

The six women and men of NDRW bring our warm smiles and hugs of encouragement and comfort to many military personnel and their families passing through Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on a Saturday. Not only do we serve up welcoming smiles and hugs, but also our picnic lunch of hot dogs, homemade chili, chips, sodas, water, doughnuts, desserts, fruit and plenty of coffee to our favorite weary travelers! It is a quiet retreat for a few minutes or several hours.

This volunteer opportunity began about 10 years ago. We have treasured this experience ever since our first adventure. Our group of six started out by just bringing our enthusiastic smiles and hugs the first time!

No food! Were we supposed to bring FOOD? Oh my! Good thing the big refrigerator was full of a just delivered, large donation of tasty turkey, ham and cheese sandwiches! We were happy to transfer hundreds of sandwiches to the lunch platters and the smaller refrigerator out in the front of the counter. So much for inexperience! We learn as we go!

Over the years, we have gained much experience since that first day of volunteer service.

The six of us have changed over the years, usually 3 seasoned volunteers and then 3 new ones.

Our USO Team:

Natalie, Caring for America chair; Dolcie, chief chef; Lisa, transportation;

Shari, Lisa, Sylvia, Shawn, Barbara and many who have come one or

2 times

Dick and Rick, associate members.

Preparation – We ask for donations of food and drink as well as cash donations.

We have a fundraiser every year to help with costs. Dolcie and Natalie shop the week of the service day to pick up the hot dogs, chili ingredients, and fruit as well as anything else that has not been donated

A typical day at USO (from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

The big day arrives



Whether by car or MARTA, we arrive and ascend the escalator or take the elevator to the 2nd floor. At check in, Carol greets us at registration. We sign in and put on our red USO aprons. We all have important jobs to do to set up for the day.

The food caravan brings the cart of food and drinks up on the elevator. In the kitchen, Dolcie is warming her homemade chili and putting the hot

dogs in the pot of boiling water to cook and then on to the rollers for crisping.

Another person is making more coffee; Lisa is showing Rick, our newest associate member, how to make the coffee, set up and replenish the counter with doughnuts and coffee, fill the drawer with chip bags and place cookies in plastic bags.

Dick and Shari are setting up the podium in the welcoming area downstairs where the escalator comes up to baggage claim. As committee chair, I take a quick inventory of the kitchen and the USO facility.

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We are welcoming many returning from R&R to go back to the War Theater, new recruits going and coming from boot camp to their next training assignment, retirees, family members and a general flow of military personnel.

The kitchen gets busy as requests for coffee and danish changes over to

hot dogs and chili. A variety of chips are made available.

One young woman says "Yum! Tastes just like my Aunt GiGi's chili." Dolcie nods and smiles.

An officer remarks and laughs, "This tastes like my wife's recipe! Wish I could take this with me. Homesick for her cooking already! Well, I'll be back in 6 months for hers! I'll just dream about it until then."

The three young men going off to boot camp asked, "How much does this cost? We don't have much money." Dolcie, exclaims with a laugh, "Cost? No! We are giving this to you free."

"You mean we don't owe you anything?"

"Yes, that's right," as I walk by, "this is our way of saying thank you for your service."

"May I have seconds, please? This tastes great! The best I've ever had, super-DEE-licious."



I overheard many "thank you for your service" from my team members, as well as I hear many "thank you for this delicious dog," "we appreciate you too" from the service men and women. So many smiles are shared from both sides of the counter! It warms my heart!

I go down the escalator and meet a couple of young bright-eyed men with big smiles and a bit of confused looks on their faces.

"May I help you?"

"We are headed to boot camp. Can you tell us where the USO is?"

This is our first time away from home. We are having a great time today, but are a little uncertain as to where to go!"

His buddy enthusiastically added, "An airplane ride, train ride and an escalator ride all in one morning. WOW! What fun! Super cool!"

At the USO Podium, Shari feels a woman pressing a bill into her hand. She opens her hand to see a \$50 bill. Thank you, she says as she looks up. The woman had already disappeared into the crowd. Shari excitedly tells me about the \$50 donation she just got. "I'm going to take this upstairs to turn it in right NOW."

Meanwhile, Dick and I are directing the soldiers in both uniform and civilian clothes upstairs to take a break from the bustling airport. It is easy to spot them with their uniforms on, but when they are flying civilian-casual, it is a bit harder. I share with Dick, "Look for short haircuts, the gleam from a dog tag around their neck, military boots or a military-issued backpack."

"I know that! Remember, I was in the Air Force!"

"Yes," I reply.

We are looking for soldiers coming up the escalator to welcome them with hugs and smiles and give them directions to gates, baggage, the USO, or transportation. Many people stop by asking questions.

"Welcome home!"

A soldier, with tears in his eyes, approaches the USO podium. "I'm so glad to be back on U.S. soil." "Would you like a hug?"

"Sure, a big welcome home hug!"

From this standpoint, I was invited to take pictures for a homecoming. I offered to snap some pictures to mark this special occasion. A mother and teenage daughters were eagerly awaiting the arrival of their husband/dad, coming home from a yearlong tour of duty. Searching in the crowd of arrivals to get a glimpse of their spouse/father, they were wildly waving welcome home signs. With each group, ascending to the top of the escalator, there were moments of disappointment. Then he appeared!" Daddy, Hi, daddy!" The girls ran up to greet their dad. Their mom was right behind them. A great, group hug! Great pictures for the family album!



U.S. Dept. of Defense

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A little while later, a young man was nervously looking for his girlfriend to arrive. He asked me if I would take a couple of pictures. I agreed. Then he asked me to hold THE BOX.

"HOLD the BOX?" "The one with the RING in it?"

"YES!"

So this is how I was involved in a proposal as the bride-to-be came off the elevator. Many false alarms! The groom to be was a nervous wreck and so was I! Then, there she appeared - so pretty in her white dress and sandals. Oh NO! She does not see him. She is veering to the right, headed to the baggage claim area. "No! Stop, stop!" I thought to myself. The nervous boyfriend approaches her and hands her a bouquet of flowers and shows her his sign. "Will you marry me?"

A hush came over the crowd. Everyone stopped walking and talking! A magical moment!

He kneels down. I hand him the box. He hands her the box. He hands her the BOX? What? NO! TAKE THE RING OUT OF THE BOX!



As I'm taking pictures, I lean in and tell him to put the ring on her finger.

He does!

She accepts.

They kiss and hug!

Everyone claps. They walk off to baggage claim together. What a romantic moment!

So glad I could be the photographer for these happy moments.

So much excitement at the USO Welcome Podium that day!

Back upstairs at the USO: Some sleep, eat, or watch television while others catch up on conversation, stand at the counter, or work at the computer bar. Parents are with children in the children's corner. It's a beehive of quiet activity.

Carol announces, "It is time for the R&R Military Personnel to check in downstairs for their flight." Those who are returning to the war theater gather up your duffle bags and assemble over outside the USO doors."

I rush around to the various alcoves and rooms, asking the troops to

gather their belongings.

"It is time to line up and check in now."

Quickly Dolcie slides through the kitchen door and grabs the big American flag. She heads to the front of the line. Dolcie leads the way down the escalator. What a beautiful sight! She begins to wave our star-spangled banner!



The rest of our volunteers walk along side as we escort the group, clapping and drawing attention to our brave soldiers. Other travelers who see our parade join in - waving and clapping for our soldiers. We hear from the crowd: "Thank you for all you do in keeping us safe."

"Thank you for your service!" "God bless you." "Safe travels."

What a wonderful feeling of a wave of patriotism as we walk through the throngs of people. This was always a highlight of the day! A great patriotic moment!

Back upstairs as I was clearing away paper plates, I overheard Dick regaling a few young soldiers with his war experiences of the 1960s around the time of the Bay of Pigs incident in Cuba.

"I was a young man your age when I got orders to leave Japan and go to Key West."

Since I knew both Russian and Spanish, all of a sudden I became a valuable asset with my language background listening in on conversations concerning the Crisis in Cuba," Dick said.

The soldiers responded. "That is awesome! Really?" "Do you think I may get to do something like that?" "You helped make history happen!"

"Oh fellas, I was just fulfilling my assignment. Went to work, got off, went fishing and kicked back. Enjoying Key West!" "My advice, if you choose to take it, is this, "Learn everything the military offers you. Take every opportunity for a good education in whatever field you are assigned. Be diligent! Have a good attitude. Today, you have greater communication skills than we did in the early 1960s. You never know when **you** may be making history."

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As I put the magazines away, a woman came up to me, asking about Wi-Fi outlets. I pointed them out to her. She had been to her grandmother's funeral; she missed her and was sad. "At least, I feel good that I got to see my Granny before she passed."

I responded, "I'm sure she is very glad to have seen you and appreciated the effort you made to see her one last time."

"Would you like a hug?"

"I sure could use one! Thanks."

"She loved you very much. Always treasure the times you had together." I said.

While I was offering cookies and cake slices, I spoke with a mother along with her children. "I appreciate your hospitality. We are meeting my husband at a new base. He is driving there now. The USO really is a sweet spot in our journey. Thanks so much. And thanks for the interest you are making with my children."

A young female graduate of Navy boot camp checked in with all of her small nieces and nephews in tow. Her sisters had surprised her and met her at the USO Podium downstairs. The children's eyes got so wide at the generous offerings on the counter. Each chose a drink, a doughnut and a hot dog. They were so quiet and well mannered! I led them to the children's area and gathered enough chairs for the whole group. While they were eating quickly because the sailor only had about 20 minutes at the USO, I was getting napkins and wipes to clean all of their hands, fingers and faces. They were the cutest group of kids! The mothers appreciated the extra help, too.

As I was passing out bibles and goodie bags, these were some of the conversations I took part in:

- "I got married while I was on leave. See my ring!" the groom beamed brightly.

- A proud new dad pulls out his pictures of his new baby daughter. "I made it in time; I actually was there!" he exclaimed.

- A middle school teacher and her student were awarded a trip to Huntsville, Ala. with NASA. "I think I'm more excited than my student! I can't believe I get to go, too!" she remarked.

- Another proud dad showed his pictures from his phone. "I missed my son's birth by 2.5 months; he came early but I've certainly enjoyed him these last 2 weeks!"

Over in the corner, are 3 Navy Cadets from the Naval Academy, waiting to go on a medical humanitarian excursion to South America. A lively conversation ensued about how they will learn so much about a different culture and how their efforts will benefit many. "This exciting experience will help shape you, learning a new language & culture will help you in all you do in your future. I'm so happy for you all." Have a great time!" I shared. "You will return with a new maturity and outlook that will serve you a lifetime."

Lisa engages in conversation with a somewhat lonely looking boot camp graduate.

"What is the matter?"

"I'm so homesick," the graduate said.

"Here, let me serve you some good homemade food; this might make you feel better!" she says with a smile. "I'm a military mom, too - just like your mom. May I give you a hug?"

"Yes, Thank you, I feel better already," the graduate said.

"You will do just fine. Remember you have military MOMS all over the

world. You are not alone!"

A retiree comes in with his wife. "Oh, honey, look at this USO! It has been remodeled. Look at this display of medals."

Turning to Carol, the check-in lady, the retiree added, "This is so very different than the last time I was here! I like it. So glad we stopped in."

I met another special USO volunteer who was meeting a connecting flight with family members who were flying to Dover, Delaware to escort their daughter, who had given her life for our country, home. "I'm here to comfort and support the family in a caring way. I hope I make this transition for them a bit easier."

I learned much from her that day. She gives out many heartfelt hugs. It deepened my appreciation of what all the USO does for the entire military family.

At a nearby table, a group of military women were enjoying our hospitality. I asked them if they would like anything else to eat.

"Where are you off to?" I asked.

"We are on our way to the hurricane-ravaged island of Puerto Rico."

"I'm glad to see the island getting much needed help!" I interjected.

"We are, too".

Mary Lou Austin, executive director, presented Dolcie with the USO Appreciation Award celebrating the 75 years of the USO. North DeKalb Republican Women cherish this award as much as the Diamond awards that we have earned in the past.

Later in the day about 3:15 p.m. traffic through the USO slowed down considerably, so 4 people wanted to leave early. It was decided that Rick and I would stay until 4. The four volunteers had cleaned up the kitchen and replenished the baskets and the smaller refrigerator so it was okay with Carol at the front desk. They returned their aprons and collected their parking ticket vouchers and off they went.

As soon as the team left - about 3:19 p.m. - here come 24 starving new Navy personnel who were leaving boot camp for further training. They all looked alike in their crisp, starched, white uniforms. So impressive!

Now where was my team when I needed them the most? My team was long gone in 4 minutes!



Wikimedia Commons

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I was busy filling up all of the water pitchers, putting water and sodas in the refrigerator as well as wrapped sandwiches. Every time I returned to the smaller refrigerator to fill it up, I noticed it was empty or severely diminished. What was going on? Is this candid camera? Is someone pulling a trick on me?

Oh dear! Rick and I moved into action. More coffee. Leftover chili and hot dogs from the refrigerator were quickly heated up and served with a smile. More ham and turkey sandwiches, and other food were put out for all of these hungry Navy sailors.

Then it dawned on me as I looked to the reception area with Carol! A long line of young military graduates waiting to show I.D. and give their next flight information.

By that time, I realized there were 24 newly arrived military. Because they were all dressed alike, and they had come in small groups, I did not realize at first, that there was so many of them. Rick and I were so very busy! We got them all fed and the smaller refrigerator refilled, and all of the baskets filled with food.

"Where did you all come from?" I asked.

"Boot camp, ma'am."

"Where are you all going?"

Two chimed in. "Florida." "South Carolina."

"What kind of training?"

"Aviation." Another between mouthfuls of hot dog, "IT."

Another female answered, "Communications, ma'am."

So polite I thought. What good manners they have!

All are so mature and confident compared to those I saw going off to boot camp.

What a difference a few weeks makes in character building and self-assurance!

All with happy smiles! They were all so appreciated to get a meal before flying off to 3 different destinations to further their training in aviation, IT or communications. Rick and I wished them well.

Finally, we were ready to pull the divider down for the night. We looked at the clock, it was 5:30. We usually leave at 4. An extra hour and one half well spent!

"So how did you like your first day with us?" I asked Rick.

"It was awesome! I want to do it again."

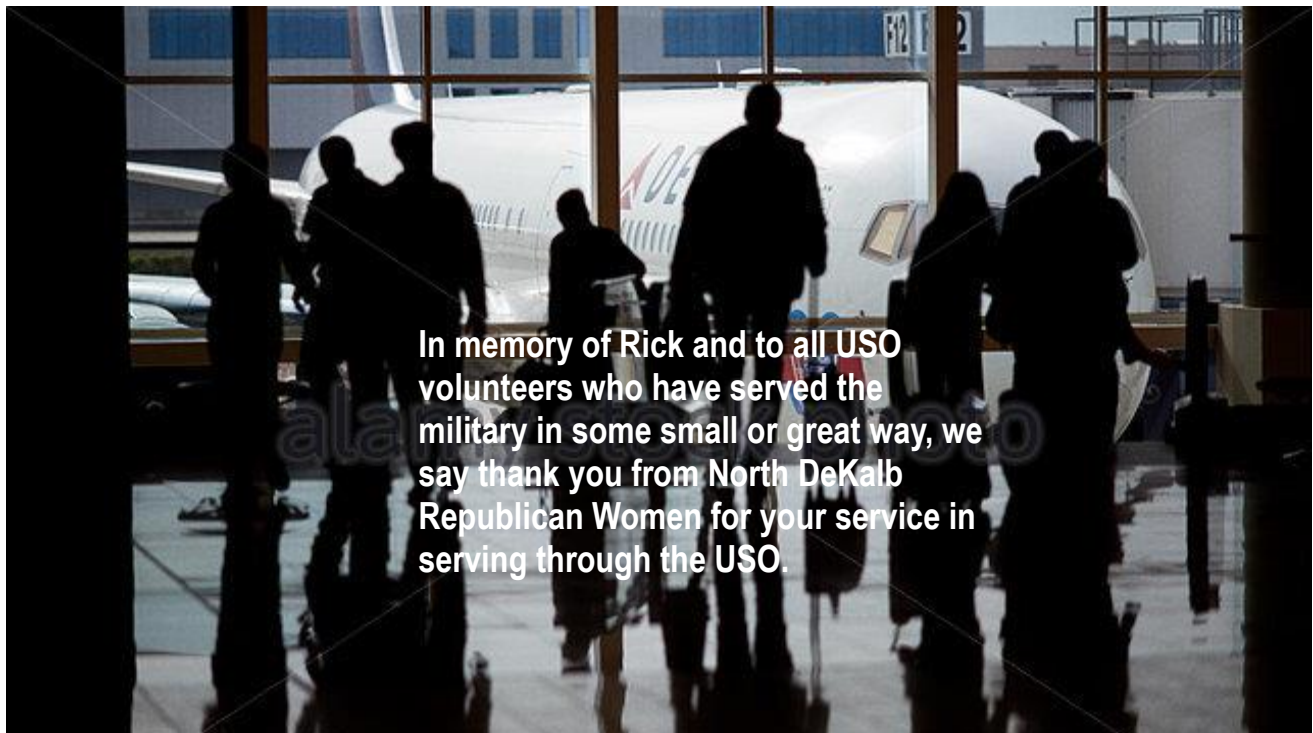
"So Rick, what did you learn today?"

"This USO is an intersection of people passing through, coming from different places, going to different destinations from Hawaii to the East Coast to all over the world. It is a brief encounter that we remember for a lifetime. Never to be forgotten! Smiles, hugs, and encouragement offered by all who enter here like so many people who pass briefly through our lives. It has been a whirlwind of great interactions!"

"Yes, Rick. We have touched their lives in some small way and they have touched our lives also. God smiles down on us as we let our light shine on each other! We therefore are much better for this wonderful experience!"

So for all of you, service men and women, and military families reading about our experiences, we say once again, from the bottom of our hearts, wherever you are, **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Rick died shortly after this USO volunteer experience. We all miss him deeply and are happy he got one thing checked off his bucket list – a volunteer day at the USO.



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PRESIDENT TRUMP
GEORGIA FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN CONVENTION

OCTOBER 7, 2017
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Trump was elected on a conservative platform of promises to the American people which included, but were not limited to, repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act; reform of immigration, including building a wall on the Mexican/American border; tax reform; strengthening the military; repealing onerous regulations; and rebuilding America's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, there are currently Republican majorities in both the House of Representatives, and the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, President Trump, in keeping his promises to the American people, has been working very hard to do those things to take care of matters that would benefit the country by turning around the economy; and providing jobs and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Senators Perdue and Isakson of Georgia, and Georgia's Republican delegation in the House of Representatives, are to be commended for their records in supporting President Trump, there are Republicans in Congress who are not supporting President Trump and are making it very difficult for him to achieve his goals, thus allowing the focus to shift from President Trump's positive agenda to anything and everything thrown in his path by obstructionist liberals; and

WHEREAS, it has become very evident that President Trump has not received the support expected from many Republicans in Congress who should be doing their part to ensure that the President's goals are achieved; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Federation of Republican Women includes support of the Republican President and the party principles, and the Georgia Federation of Republican Women (GFRW) want to do everything possible to support the President;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the GFRW strongly urges the Republicans in Congress to work together with President Trump to defeat those who would, and have been, using their power of unity and obstruction to defeat the President's agenda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GFRW strongly urges, and hopes that it can count on, Republican members of Congress to aggressively support the President's agenda with their votes, and push those matters through Congress that will achieve the President's goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the GFRW is directed to send this Resolution to Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan; U S Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and all Republican members of the Georgia delegation in Congress.

RESOLVED THIS _____ DAY OF OCTOBER 2017

ATTESTED TO BY: _____
Secretary, Georgia Federation of Republican Women