

VOICES Focus

GEORGIA FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

GFRW Summer Board Meeting in Augusta Padgett recognized: Perdue provides update

By Cindy Theiler

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MISSION
Educating and
Empowering
Women for Better
Government

Another Georgia Federation of Republican Women (GFRW) summer board of directors meeting is in the books!

Club members and their guests, who met in Augusta June 2 for the annual summer gathering, got to recognize outgoing Georgia GOP Chair John Padgett and his wife, Mary, for their service to our state and also hear from Georgia's U.S. Senator David Perdue at lunch following the meeting.

In addition, 12 members were also elected to participate as delegates and alternates at the National Federation of Republican Women's Biennial Convention in Philadelphia from Sept. 14-17. These women are responsible for all costs associated with attending this convention. Selected participants include:

Delegates

Carol Field –
Gwinnett Republican Women's Club
Rose Wing –
Cobb County Republican Women's Club
Johnell Woody –
Cobb County Republican Women's Club
Vivian Childs –
Middle Georgia Republican Women
Sally Snyder –
Gwinnett Republican Women's Club
Lydia Hallmark –
Paulding County Republican Women's Club

Alternates

Amy Hartness –
Coweta County Republican Women's Club
Millie Rogers –
Cobb County Republican Women's Club
Jena Yarborough –
Republican Women of Forsyth County
Peggy Green –
Republican Women of Forsyth County
Felicity Diamond –
Cobb County Republican Women's Club
Ana Wiley –
Republican Women of Hall County

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Photos provided by — Cindy Theiler and Judy True

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

I have so enjoyed visiting your clubs and feel honored to be asked to attend your meetings. While with you, I have observed your “good works,” your willingness to help, and your positive attitude about our GFRW mission. Your clubs send such a great message to your communities –YOU CARE.

In 2016, my first message to you as your president was about the message of the book, “*The Secret*,” written by Ken Blanchard and Mark Miller. Their focus on leadership spoke to me about how we can best serve our GFRW members and our communities across Georgia. In their book, they use the word SERVE to help us see success in all we do.

A person can serve without leading,

but a leader can't lead well without serving.

Even though we have temporary positions in our clubs and GFRW, we can use the following five key ways leaders serve through our actions in all we do:

See the Future

Engage and Develop Others

Reinvent Continuously

Value Results

Embody the Values

As Republicans, we know our values and the fall agenda spoke volumes to our fellow American citizens in the 2016 election. We must keep working to ensure the future is within our grasp and we must develop new leaders and value the relationships we have throughout our communities.

Thanks for all you do.

GFRW Meeting in Augusta



Continued from page 1

Every GFRW club is entitled to have one delegate (typically the club president) attend in addition to GFRW's president.

In addition to the national convention, Rose Wing, GFRW's parliamentarian and rules & bylaws chair, also requested club presidents certify to NFRW the number of its club members and send that number to Sally Snyder, GFRW treasurer, and Denise Ognio, GFRW assistant treasurer, by June 10. This information will be used to determine the number of delegates and alternates who will represent their clubs as voting members at GFRW's state convention to be held this fall in Cobb County.

Ognio also announced GFRW has initiated a fundraiser for a \$300 gift certificate to Adventure Outdoors in Smyrna, Ga. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket and \$20 for five tickets. Each club president was given or will receive tickets for their club to sell. The winning ticket will be selected at GFRW's state convention.

Ognio also provided a treasurer's report, which included \$1,137 that was raised

at the auction held at GFRW's Board of Directors meeting in February. Ognio thanked Millie Rogers, GFRW anniversary committee chair, for organizing this fundraiser for GFRW.

Natalie Olmi, who is an alternate on the nominating committee, encouraged members to apply for a two-year position on GFRW's board of directors for 2018-2019. Those interested in applying should contact Ruby Robinson, GFRW's past president, at robinson6@bellsouth.net for more information.

Club members then provided some committee and club updates.

Prior to closing the meeting, Hickey presented John and Mary Padgett with some gifts from GFRW for their service to Georgia's Republican Party. John briefly spoke about some of the GOP's accomplishments during his term as chair. He praised GFRW members for their support and said he and his wife have "enjoyed the ride."



At lunch following the board meeting, Perdue, who was accompanied by his wife, Bonnie, updated attendees about his work and the current political situation in Washington, D.C. He encouraged all not to miss the opportunity to support and/or vote for Karen Handel in the upcoming election on June 20 to elect the first female from Georgia to the U.S. House of Representatives.



Reports

Legislative Committee-state

Submitted by Eleanor Toppins, committee chair

Four Republicans have announced to run for governor: Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, Sen. Hunter Hill, Secretary of State Brian Kemp, and Sen. Michael Williams.

Karen Handel is the Republican candidate in the 6th District run-off for the U.S. Congress.

President Donald Trump called Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to assist with the I-85 bridge collapse. The president approved federal assistance totaling roughly \$10 million to the state of Georgia to assist with cleanup and bridge repair. Deal is expected to request additional federal assistance to cover other costs.

In Georgia, HB 65 -- which was a controversial bill -- passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by Deal. The bill provides for expanding the list of conditions that qualify for treatment involving medical cannabis oil.

GFRW Fundraiser Underway

Have you heard the news yet? GFRW is selling tickets for a \$300 gift card to Adventure Outdoors in Smyrna. Club presidents have or will receive tickets to sell to you and purchase to sell to others. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket and 5 for \$20. If you pay by check, these can be written to the Georgia Federation of Republican Women. Tickets may be purchased until GFRW's state convention this fall; a drawing will be held then and the winner will be announced at this meeting.

Get your tickets today! The store's website is <https://www.adventureoutdoors.us>.

Augusta Scrapbook



Registration



Having breakfast and catching up on the news

Augusta Scrapbook



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. Please send your items to cindy.theiler1@gmail.com.

Central Savannah River Area Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Alice Frye

The Central Savannah River Area Republican Women's Club had an active year with guest speakers at its monthly meetings, including Robin Allen, wife of 12th District Congressman Rick Allen. Jerry Lyda also spoke to us about Veterans K-9 Solutions. Lyda saw a problem with the long-term wait for veterans needing service dogs so he began rescuing dogs from shelters and pairing them with a veteran-- both a dog and a veteran were saved. He is a fantastic speaker for Republican groups and he brings his service dog and other veterans with their dogs with him. He is also working with Congress to help expedite and supplement the Veterans Administration with getting service dogs for veterans.

Many of our members are beginning to work on campaigns for local and state candidates, including the gubernatorial campaigns.

Many members actively participated in the precinct, county, and district meetings and were delegates and alternates to the GaGOP convention in Augusta in June. The CSRA RWC hosted a forum with the four candidates running for the GaGOP chair in April and the meeting was attended by nearly 100 people from our area and live-streamed to more than 700.

The Central Savannah River Area (or CSRA) Republican Women's Club is an organization for Republican Women in the metro Augusta area and includes 13 counties in the 12th District.

Coastal Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Sandra Mull

Georgia Senator William Ligon Jr., was the featured speaker at the Coastal Republican Women's Club meeting in Brunswick last month. In addition, Georgia Congressman Earl (Buddy) Carter (R-1st District) spoke about legislative initiatives at the club's April meeting. The club also hosted a yard sale on May 20.

Cobb County Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Rosan Hall

The Cobb County Republican Women's Club hosted a forum for candidates for Georgia's Senate District 32 at the Mountain View Community Center on Sandy Plains Road in Marietta. Republican Kay Kirkpatrick won this race. We are taking an active role in putting out signs and informing voters of the June 20 runoff election between Karen Handel and her Democratic opponent Jon Ossoff for the seat vacated by Dr. Tom Price. Many of us assisted Cobb County Commissioner Bob Ott (District 1) with a meet and greet at his home for U.S. House candidate Karen Handel.

Caring . . . and Sharing

Coweta County Republican Women

Contributed by Amy Emerich



(L to R) Guest speaker Jacqueline Arnold, CCRW President Amy Emerich, and Dee Carlson, CCRW membership director

The Coweta County Republican Women had its first "Lady Liber-Tea" fundraiser on May 6 with guest speaker Jacqueline Arnold, who is the author of four books and co-host on *The Christian View* television show. Our scholarship winners from 2014 and 2017 attended. This event, which is a fundraiser for our club's annual scholarship we award to a high school senior in Coweta County, was an overwhelming success. Nearly half of the attendees were brand new to our club, and we also raised more than we had anticipated. We look forward to making this an annual event. In addition, the club also got a recap of Georgia's 2017 legislative session from Rep. Lynn Smith and Sen. Matt Brass at its May 18 meeting. Tony West, grassroots director for Georgia Americans for Prosperity, was the speaker at the club's meeting in April.

Floyd County Republican Women

Contributed by Lydia Hallmark

The Floyd County Republican Women hosted Carolyn Hall Fisher, successful candidate for Georgia GOP's 1st vice chair, at its May meeting.

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



Marci Sanders Heath, county chair for Donald Trump's presidential campaign, Haralson County GOP secretary, and representative from Insurance Solutions of the South, presented a very informative health care reform update

during the Haralson County Republican Women meeting on May 18.

Caring . . . and Sharing

Middle Georgia Republican Women

Contributed by Elaine Pritchard

Middle Georgia Republican Women, Houston County GOP,



and Wartown Young Republicans hosted a very informative legislative update forum in May. So thankful for the wonderful men who represent our Middle Georgia area— State representatives Heath Clark, Shaw Blackmon, Bubber Epps, Buddy Harden, Robert Dickey and Senator John Kennedy.

Paulding County Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Lydia Hallmark

Joseph Gullett, Paulding Board of Elections member, spoke to members of the Paulding County Republican Women's Club, at its March meeting.

Republican Women's Federation of Habersham County

Contributed by Darlene Terrell

The Republican Women's Federation of Habersham County's focus this year is helping its community. The club has collected items for the Habersham County Animal Shelter, delivered many food items to both the Clarkesville and Cornelia soup kitchens, and has twice helped the local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Republican Women of Forsyth County

Contributed by Kelli Warren

At its April meeting in recognition of International Remembrance Day, Rebecca Schindler shared her husband's story of his escape to America after World War II

with the Republican Women of Forsyth County. At the club's May meeting, Forsyth County Sheriff Ron Freeman provided an update about public safety in the county.



Republican Women of Gilmer County

Contributed by Sally Forest

The Republican Women of Gilmer County picked up more than 15 bags of trash along Burnt Mountain Road in Gilmer County under the Adopt-A-Road community services project.



(L to R) Carolyn Sewell Sally Forest, and Donna Jones.

In May, Benita Dodd, of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, spoke to the group about economic opportunities in Georgia and happenings in the Georgia General Assembly. RWGC added a short segment to each meeting that we're calling, "You heard it here first – Republican Women Her story," in which a different member each month gives a short biography of a Republican woman in history and the importance of her contributions.

Caring . . . and Sharing

Republican Women of Hall

Contributed by Judy True



The Republican Women of Hall County hosted a wine and cheese event on May 25 in honor of Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. Congressman Doug Collins sponsored the event.

The program included recognition of the veterans who were present and a description of the current Caring for America project called, "Salute the Troops." As part of the project, donations were collected for wheelchairs for disabled veterans. Collins shared information from Washington, D.C., and encouraged everyone to continue efforts to be vocal regarding issues.

Republican Women of Henry County

Contributed by Eleanor Toppins

Republican Women of Henry County had to reschedule its sold-out 4th Annual Fundraiser Fashion Show and Luncheon scheduled for May 27. Proceeds will help fund our college scholarship to a female high school senior in Henry County. In addition, funds also support the club's 12th annual Dictionary Project that helps provide dictionaries to every third grade student in Henry County. Our Republican women go into the schools to deliver the dictionaries and give a presentation to the children about the history you can find in the dictionary and how to find what you are looking for. The children love receiving their very own book that they can put their name in and take home if they want to.

South Fulton Republican Women's Club

Contributed by Suzanne Holland



(L to R) Suzanne Holland, Ann Hill, and one of Hill's daughters, Pat.

At its meeting on March 2, the South Fulton Republican Women's Club honored Ann Hill for more than 50 years of continuous membership. She was presented with a framed resolution thanking her for her long and faithful service to the club and the Republican Party. Attending to help in our celebration were Brad Hughes, political director of the GA GOP; Barbara Hickey, GFRW president; and former GFRW presidents Helen Van Waldner and Emma Hinesley. Ullainee Stokes, of the Central DeKalb Republican Women, also attended. Millie Rogers, a former GFRW president, also wrote a congratulatory letter to Hill that was read.

Union County Republican Women

Contributed by Louise Little

The Union County Republican Women continue to work closely with the Union County Republican Party as plans proceed for a speech contest and awards of scholarships to local high school seniors. Officers for this year are Louise Little, president; Rose Marie Terry, 1st vice president; Deb Curlette, 2nd vice president; Linda Hill, treasurer; and, Donna Towery, secretary.



Member News and Notes

Member News

Bobbie Frantz, president of Central DeKalb Republican Women and GFRW secretary, was named Georgia's GOP volunteer of the year at the state convention on June 3 in Augusta. John Padgett, outgoing chair of the state's Republican Party, presented Frantz with her award.

At its awards ceremony in Augusta, the Georgia Young Republicans presented the Jon Richards Award, which is awarded to one supporter (this year to two supporters) of GYR who has greatly contributed to the growth and excellence of the organization. This year's honorees were **Rose Wing** and **Johnell Woody**, both of Cobb County Republican Women's Club.

Carolyn Fisher, of the Republican Women of Forsyth County, was elected 1st vice chair of the Georgia GOP.

Vivian Childs, of Middle Georgia Republican Women, was also a candidate for 1st vice chair of the Georgia GOP.

A number of members of Central Savannah River Area Republican Women's Club are seeking political positions or have new leadership roles. **Robin Allen**, wife of 12th District Congressman Rick Allen, is the newly-elected president of the Republican Congressional Spouses Club in Washington, D.C. Another CSRA RWC member, **Ashley Wright**, was appointed Superior Court judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit. She was the former district attorney in that area. Another member, Pam Tucker, is a candidate for the chair of the Columbia County Commission. In addition, **Debbie McCord**, ran again for the Georgia GOP's 2nd vice chair and **Mike Welsh**, an associate member of our club, ran for the GaGOP chair.



Bobbie Frantz



Carolyn Fisher



Vivian Childs

Applicants needed for GFRW board for 2018-2019

It's that time of year again! Nominations are needed from members who are interested in seeking an elected position on GFRW's board of directors for 2018-2019. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact Ruby Robinson, GFRW's former president, at rrobinson6@bellsouth.net. Members should submit an application and their qualifications by August.