



Happy New Year! Happy Republican New Year! My first contribution to *Elephant's Ear* as President of Republican Women of Brazos Valley is full of excitement and hope for a wonderful 2015. I am honored to have your trust in electing me to this position. I most certainly will need your help this year! My mission statement is simple: that RWBV grow in number and in its ability to reach out to the community, state and nation. We can celebrate our November victories, but we must never become complacent. The reality is *Battleground Texas* is alive and more than ever working to make Texas blue in 2016. We must do everything in our power to combat their impact by informing the uninformed voter, convincing the undecided voter and motivating the unmotivated voter by our actions and our words. Let's be diligent in making certain that our elected officials do not become complacent as well. Let's remain informed and keep an eagle's eye on the potential Republican candidates in the 2016 Presidential race. As Republican women, we need to continue to make our presence felt! Please renew your memberships and bring in new members.

Even if you are not an official board member, please know that any ideas you may have are welcome and encouraged! I remember a statement made to me by one of the past Republican Executive Committee men. "Do Republican Women of Brazos Valley do anything besides lunch?" Unfortunately, he was serious! Let's rally and show just what we can do in the biggest way possible!

DIANA DAVIS, PRESIDENT

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## PROGRAMS

DENA FRIEDA, VP PROGRAMS



We are pleased to welcome State Board of Education (SBOE) Chair Barbara Cargill as speaker for our January 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon. First elected in 2004, Barbara is halfway through her third four-year term as our own District 8 Representative on the SBOE. She was appointed SBOE Chair by Governor Perry July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 and was re-appointed to a second term February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Barbara Cargill grew up in Memphis, Tennessee and earned top honors at Briarcrest High School - the wonderful Christian school featured in the movie "The Blind Side." She earned her undergraduate degree in education from Baylor University and a Master's of Science in Science Education degree from Texas

Woman's University.

Barbara has taught and shared science with children in the Dallas and Houston areas for almost thirty years. She has received teaching awards such as the "Thanks to Teachers" National Excellence Award, the A. J. Sales Educational Award and a National Audubon Society Award.

Barbara served on the Garland ISD Textbook Selection Committee, co-wrote curriculums for Hurst Euleless Bedford ISD and was the team leader for the district science curriculum development. Barbara founded "Project Nature" for Hurst Euleless Bedford ISD, which allowed her high school science students to teach science to local elementary school students.

Barbara's interest in creative, hands-on learning for children and a love for science motivated her to found the Wonders of the Woodlands (WOW!) Science Camp program in 1994. She still serves as its director today. ([www.wowsciencecamp.com](http://www.wowsciencecamp.com)). With a team of dynamic certified teachers and fantastic curriculum, the program attracts over 1,200 children each summer, ages 3-11. As Director of "Wonders of the Woodlands Science Camp," Barbara authors or co-authors every curriculum for which the program is so well known.

Barbara Cargill considers it a privilege to use her education, experience and skills to serve as a voice for the children of Texas on the State Board of Education.

Barbara's visit is timely indeed given the controversies in education right now. Our members will likely have questions for her about the current state of CSCOPE here in Texas, as well as the Advanced Placement U.S. History Framework/Exam on the national level.

**January Luncheon Meeting: Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** at the College Station Hilton. Check in opens at 11:15 and the buffet line opens at 11:30, with the meeting called to order at 12:00. Sixteen dollars for luncheon and program; **five dollars for program only** – Please specify if you want a **MEAL** or **PROGRAM ONLY** when making reservations.

**Reservations:** Contact Ceci Matthews at [rwbvreservations@gmail.com](mailto:rwbvreservations@gmail.com) or **979-204-0902**. We ask for the courtesy of a reservation by Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>; however we will accept reservations and cancellations through noon Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. RESERVATIONS ASSURE WE WILL BE PROPERLY PREPARED.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

*GINI HOWERTON, CHAIR*

As of December 31st, Republican Women of the Brazos Valley has welcomed 65 new/returning members! We want to take a moment to thank you for your membership. Whether you're a returning member, a new member, or have joined us as an Associate, we appreciate everything you do to help make us successful! We hope you will enjoy the benefits of your membership and we look forward to getting to know you better in 2015!

## **CAMPAIGN HOURS**

*JO ANN GRANDJEAN, CHAIR*

We need your volunteer hours **NOW** for all quarters: January-March, April-June, July-September and October-December. Check your calendars and hopefully you can account for all the many hours you have spent working for our victorious mid-term 2014 election or any other worthy Republican cause you might be involved in. If you didn't keep a calendar, let me know and I will provide a framework to help you.

Call or email me if you need help figuring out what activities count.

## **CARING FOR AMERICA**

*TERRI STEWART, CHAIR*

The assembling of Mother's Day cards for the troops continues following the next RWBV board meeting Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, around 11:00 a.m. at GOP Headquarters. Work will begin as soon as the meeting is adjourned. We say "work," but the term must be interpreted loosely because it is really fun to be part of Terri's creative process by simply executing her clear instructions on the card assembly. Plus since the work is easy, we

get a chance to visit and know one another better. Please come join us for fun and fellowship Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>!

## **LEGISLATIVE**

*JO MILLER, CHAIR*

Over the last couple of weeks, Our SD5 representative to the State Senate, Dr. Charles Schwertner, has put forward three bills for consideration in the upcoming legislative session.

Earlier this week, he pre-filed Senate Bill 233 which if it gets through would cap tuition and fees at state colleges and universities at their current levels and limit any future increases to no more than the rate of inflation. He notes a doubling of tuition and fees since 2003, and a 222 percent increase in designated tuition. For a more in-depth discussion of the reasoning behind this legislation and Dr. Schwertner's future plans for addressing this issue, please read his article published December 10<sup>th</sup> in the Eagle at this web address:

[http://www.theeagle.com/opinion/editorials/texas-must-get-a-grip-on-rising-tuition/article\\_04f961e0-e4ab-5930-bb90-be053c1f9c22.html](http://www.theeagle.com/opinion/editorials/texas-must-get-a-grip-on-rising-tuition/article_04f961e0-e4ab-5930-bb90-be053c1f9c22.html).

Senate Bill 184 proposes an end to diversions of some gas tax dollars to state agencies and projects, and placing those dollars into the State Highway Fund instead. Schwertner estimates his legislation would add \$620 million to the highway fund. Senate Bill 239 would offer repayment assistance for student loans for mental health professionals who would agree to serve the underserved in Texas.

Congressman Bill Flores spent a lot of time reading the FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. An article about his vote can be found at this web address: [www.wtaw.com/2014/12/12/congressman-flores-statement-budget-vote](http://www.wtaw.com/2014/12/12/congressman-flores-statement-budget-vote). Mr. Flores explained in great detail why he voted against the bill.

Adding another activity to his already busy schedule, Bill sat down with Ky Sisson on *Townhall* to discuss his plans for carrying out his duties as the newly elected Republican Study Committee Chairman. He reiterated his commitment to insure that conservatives are working together to protect the traditional values he and many of the American people hold dear. Bill will be mediating between RSC members and House leadership to advance the Conservative agenda.

## **NEW CITIZENS**

*GERRY HINCE, CHAIR*

No doubt 2015 will see more new citizens coming into the Brazos Valley! Join us on Thursday 29 January in the Sanctuary at the Brazos County Administration Building at 10 am. Under our new Judge Kyle Hawthorne, the New Citizens' Ceremony will continue to be one of the highlights of our area. Join us in either filling the red bags or giving them out! What a way to start a new year!

*You're Invited to RWBV's First Board Meeting of 2015*

Members are always welcome at RWBV board meetings, but since this is our first meeting of the new year, we would like to issue a special invitation to all members to join us Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at GOP Headquarters, 1640 Briarcrest, Ste. 122, Bryan. Look for future board meeting dates/times in Save the Dates.

*Wishing You All a Happy and Prosperous New Year!*

## SAVE THE DATES

**January 5**— Republican Club Luncheon, Speaker Sergeant Jason James, Bryan Police. Topic: Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET). RSVP to [brazosvalleyrepublicanclub@gmail.com](mailto:brazosvalleyrepublicanclub@gmail.com).

**January 7**—RWBV board meeting, GOP Headquarters, 10:00 a.m.

**January 7**—Card Workshop, GOP Headquarters, around 11:00 a.m.

**January 14**—RWBV Luncheon, Speaker SBOE Chair and District 8 Rep. Barbara Cargill, see p.1

**February 11**—RWBV Luncheon, Speaker Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Leadership Program Director and Professor, Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Will address the Farm Bill as well as give a brief account of how the Brazos County EXPO Center came about.

**March 11**—RWBV Luncheon, Speaker Dr. Dave McIntyre, Professor of Homeland Security at the Bush School for Government and Public Service

**April 6**— Republican Club Luncheon, Speaker John Sharp, Chancellor TAMU System

**April 8**—RWBV Luncheon, Speaker TBA

**September 9**—RWBV Luncheon, Speaker SD 5 Senator, Dr. Charles Schwertner

