

November 2013 Newsletter

clearcreekrw.org

Clear Creek



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Cheryl Faircloth, HOSPITALITY
Barbara Vollmer, HOSPITALITY
Gina Gentile, LEGISLATIVE
Loretta Roberts, LEGISLATIVE
Betty Suagee, LITERACY
Kathleen McCumber, OUTREACH
Jean Sargent, NEWSLETTER
Patricia Grady, PARLIAMENTARIAN
Evelyn Garland, PUBLICITY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

After four years of emphatically declaring America was not "exceptional", President Obama, in a speech last month, finally admitted that the United States was "exceptional". When I heard him say America was exceptional, I thought, "Wow, he must have had an epiphany moment." I agree one-hundred percent that America is exceptional. But then I began to wonder: What is American exceptionalism, and what makes America unique and different from other countries?

Are we exceptional because we have the greatest military in the world? Are we exceptional because of our geographical location? Are we exceptional because of our economical standing in the world? Are we exceptional because we don't overthrow our government by coups?

There are countries who don't think we are exceptional - "except" when they need help in defending their country against outside aggressors; "except" when they need help in pushing out terrorist aggression; "except" when they need help financially; "except" when there is a major natural disaster. And, yes, America has always been ready to give of her resources to those in need. America sends help and then leaves, leaving that country better than it was. In the course of history, we have left many of our finest men and women buried in other lands, and America asks nothing in return.

So what is it that makes America exceptional? I think it's an attitude and mindset that just "is" that has become embedded in the American psyche. I suppose one can say that American exceptionalism is a state of mind based on historical facts. As Americans, we feel that we are unique and have a special purpose, but we have never stopped long enough to define that purpose. The concept of American "exceptionalism" supposes a particular U.S. commitment to democratic values and an obligation to promote those values globally. French analyst Alexis De Tocqueville remarked, "America was a nation of immigrants bound together by shared principles of liberty, equality, individualism and *laissez faire* economics."

The historical uniqueness, values and traditions of the United States is the result of a combination of many factors. Some historians believed that American specialness stems from its political, intellectual and religious heritage and were enduring, while others argued that it would not last.

American exceptionalism stems from the ideals and values of individual freedoms: freedom from tyranny and oppression which our forefathers had lived under for centuries. America presented herself as a land of abundant opportunity - a chance to pursue a new beginning; an opportunity to own property, to worship freely, and to enjoy the benefits of one's labor without fear of government. These ideals were enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States, upon which all our civil laws are based. These august documents give Americans a sense of security and of well-being knowing that everyone, even the common man, has a recourse to petition his government for relief.



Continued on Page 2

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

Another event often cited as a milestone in the history of American exceptionalism is The American Revolutionary War. The best example is found in Thomas Paine's Common Sense. He wrote that, for the first time,

the belief that America was not just an extension of Europe but a new land, a country of nearly unlimited potential and opportunity that was being abused by the British mother country they had outgrown. Although few common Americans would have agreed with them at the time, they laid the intellectual foundations for the Revolutionary concept of American Exceptionalism.

When reading and studying America's founding and heritage, one cannot deny the implicit part religion has played throughout our history. Freedom of religion, in my opinion and study, is the underlying thread that runs through our history. From the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and to most, if not all, of the fifty States' Constitutions, there is some reference to God or Providence. Before the Revolutionary War, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "We devoutly implore assistance of Almighty God to conduct us happily through this great conflict." And near the end of that conflict, he warned, "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God?"

Let's never forget the price that was paid to preserve the underpinnings of America's exceptionalism, which is grounded in the Founders, and the founding document they authored, that gives testimony to the religious, and uniquely Judeo-Christian, character of the United States of America.

Sources:

AllAboutHistory.com

Ian Tyrrell, Wordpress.com/papers-and-comments Fact-index.com;Wikipedia



TIME TO RENEW or JOIN

We are now accepting applications for 2014 for the CLEAR CREEK REPUBLICAN WOMEN PAC. Attached as the final page of this newsletter is the 2014 membership form. Membership dues are still \$25.00, and Associate Membership is \$15.00

Please fill out a new form for renewal, even if all your information is the same as last year. And please fill out a separate form for your husband (Associate), even if you pay with one check.

Please mail your completed form(s), with your check, to:

**Lesley Bruemmer, PAC Treasurer
2301 Meadows Blvd.
League City TX 77573**

Lesley will also accept your credit card payment over the phone at 832-632-2880 (home) or 757-839-5917 (cell).

You may also bring your form(s) and payment to CCRW's November 1 meeting.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Wilson at ccrwpresident@comcast.net or 281-332-8039.



CLEAR CREEK REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Meetings Held on the First Friday of Each Month.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Next Meeting is Friday, November 1, 2013.
(Note new location)

SUDIE'S CATFISH & SEAFOOD HOUSE
352 N GULF FREEWAY
LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS

11:00 am	Meet and Greet
11:30 am	Lunch * (\$12.00, Tax & Gratuity Included) (Reservations required by Monday, October 28)
12:00 Noon	Meeting (Guest speaker is Congressman Randy Weber)

* Please select **one** of the following choices and RSVP to Barbara J. Vollmer at reservations.ccrw@gmail.com or call 713-208-9527 by Monday, October 28:

1. CHARGRILLED CHICKEN BREAST (with green beans & loaded baked potato)
2. CATFISH FILLET PLATE (2 hand-battered, deep-fried fillets, fries, hushpuppies & coleslaw)
3. SOUP & SALAD (Seafood Gumbo & Sudie's House Salad)

Cost is \$12.00 (tax & gratuity included)
and can be paid at the door with cash, check or credit card.

**If you reserve lunch and do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.
You will be billed, and the payment will be considered a donation to the Club.**

November 1 Guest Speaker: Congressman Randy Weber



Congressman Randy Weber is a public servant, proven conservative and successful small business owner representing the 14th District of Texas.

Weber is a member of the Science, Space and Technology committee as well as the House Foreign Affairs committee. He holds leadership roles on both committees: Vice Chair of the Energy subcommittee and Vice Chair of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations subcommittee.

For the past 40 years, Randy Weber has called the Gulf Coast home – a place to start a family and build a business. Although juggling work and family takes great amounts of time and effort, Weber makes time to be an active member of his church and community.

Weber built his air conditioning company, Weber's Air & Heat, in 1981 from scratch and grew his business by using what his grandfather used to call, "good old-fashion Texas horse sense and a strong work ethic." Like others who have successfully moved from business to public service, it is Weber's real-world experience in the private sector that underpins his commitment to lower taxes, his contempt for wasteful spending and his firm dedication to better schools.

Prior to being elected to Congress, Weber served four years in the Texas State House. During his tenure, Weber served on the committees of Environmental Regulation, Public Education, and as Vice Chair of Border and Intergovernmental Affairs.

As the Vice Chair of the Energy subcommittee of Science, Space, and Technology, Randy Weber has been a leader in the effort to unleash the energy industry. On May 22, Weber's first amendment passed the House floor; this amendment incorporates the scientific findings to provide further reason why the Keystone XL Pipeline permits should be approved.

While serving at the Texas House, Randy Weber authored landmark legislation to combat human trafficking and protect women, young girls and boys – some as young as 12 years old. On the House Foreign Affairs committee, Weber is continuing the fight against human trafficking, as well as co-sponsoring legislation to strengthen our foreign policies and relationship with our allies across the globe.

As a freshman member of Congress, Weber is committed to advocating for America's job creators and hardworking families. He understands that lower taxes and less government mandates will help relieve taxpayers' tightened purse strings and allow job creators to cultivate and grow their business in a more stable environment.

Weber has lived in a 20-mile radius for over 59 years, and been married to Brenda Weber, a retired schoolteacher, for over 36 years. He is a graduate of Alvin Community College and holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. Randy and Brenda have three children and four wonderful grandchildren.

NOVEMBER 11, 2013 – VETERAN'S DAY

There are many activities and celebrations around the area to honor our Veterans. Please check your local newspaper, VFW, American Legion Hall, city and county websites to discover what is planned in your area.

REMEMBER TO THANK A VETERAN

There is a bumper stick that says it all: ***Soldiers, not professors, give us free speech.***

Galveston County Republican Party Hosts Hispanic Outreach Event

submitted by Galveston County Republican Party Chair, Barbara Meeks



The Galveston County Republican Party hosted several prominent Republicans at their inaugural Hispanic Outreach event held at Barber Middle School in Dickinson on October 8th. Over 60 people attended, including elected officials and several dozen conservative Hispanics from across the county. The evening featured the Honorable David Medina, former Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Judge Debra Ibarra Mayfield, the first Latina elected to Harris County Court at Law. They were joined by George P. Bush, who is the founder of Hispanic Republicans of Texas.

County Chair Barbara Meeks welcomed everyone and referenced the values that Hispanics and Republicans share: a strong faith, strong family values, protecting the lives of the unborn, a strong work ethic and a desire to prosper. Pastor Rudy Rios gave the invocation and led the pledges to the American and Texas Flags. Gary Polland, former Harris County Republican Chair, served as moderator for the panel discussion.

George P. Bush is a former teacher and attorney and is an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He has worked with a number of non-profits including Big Brothers–Big Sisters, Celebration of Reading in Fort Worth, and the Dallas-based Uplift Education charter system. George P. comes from a long line of conservatives who believe in giving back to their communities.

Judge Mayfield grew up in northeast Houston and attended Aldine High School. She was among the first generation in her family to earn a college degree. Mayfield was quite animated when she told of a recent visit to her childhood neighborhood and reported that she frequently speaks to high school students about the principles that guided her through school. Judge Mayfield is a past president of the Mexican-American Bar Association of Houston.

Justice Medina was born in Galveston and grew up in Hitchcock. His father was in the U.S. Marine Corps and his mother, after her four children were grown, went to college and became a Registered Nurse. It was quite clear that Medina was proud of his Mexican heritage and proud to have grown up in a family that emphasized personal responsibility.

The evening's success can best be measured by the high interest level in forming a Galveston County Chapter of Hispanic Republicans of Texas. A number of Hispanics who attended will meet soon to form the HRT Chapter and reach out to Hispanics across the County.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Niki Stevens
- 4 Hon. Michelle Slaughter
- 7 Roxann Lewis
- 9 Sandra Brooker
- 16 Cynthia Tauss
- 24 Tracy Louver
- 25 Genevieve Buckaloo
- 29 Virginia Mason
- 30 Billie Listiak



Leaders

Readers

are

are

Readers

Leaders



We invite you to read, discuss, and share ideas. Betty Suagee, CCRW's Literacy Chair, makes the following recommendations:

Decision Points by George W. Bush

Power to the People by Laura Ingraham

National Federation of Republican Women Hosts Fall Convention in Louisville

submitted by Evelyn Garland, Publicity Chair

More than 1,275 Republican women leaders from across the nation met in Louisville, Kentucky during September 19-22 at the National Federation of Republican Women's 37th biennial convention, which focused on leadership training in preparation for the 2014 midterm elections.

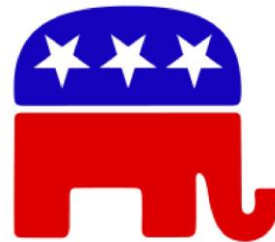
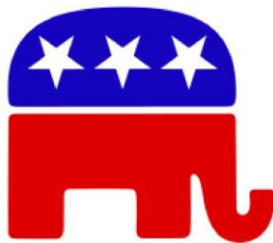
Our CCRW Representative was Lesley J. Bruemmer, CCRW PAC Treasurer (pictured here with Rae Lynne Chomenky, NFRW President). Lesley attended many workshops, meetings and special events. Not only were the political speakers informative, but Lesley was able to meet other NFRW leaders and learn more about the national level of the Republican Women's organization.



During the four-day event, which was one of the largest national gatherings of Republicans this year, registrants participated in a series of leadership training seminars in the areas of outreach, community, campaigns, fundraising, and message development taught by nationally-recognized experts. They heard from Republican leaders, elected officials and other notable guests, including Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), former Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC), Republican National Committee Co-Chair Sharon Day, and noted film maker Dinesh D'Souza.

Lesley stated, "This has been a great learning experience for me. Many of the workshop leaders were exceptional and I gained so very much from the experience. I really appreciate the assistance CCRW gave me in registration costs that allowed me to attend."

Founded in 1938, the NFRW has thousands of active members in local clubs across the nation and in several U.S. territories, making it one of the largest women's political organizations in the country. The grassroots organization works to promote the principles and objectives of the Republican Party, elect Republican candidates, inform the public through political education and activity, and increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.



GALVESTON COUNTY VETS FAIR

Veterans Services announces the Galveston County Veterans Fair to be held at the Galveston VA Outpatient Clinic (3828 Avenue N, Galveston) on November 10 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Federal, State, County and Local agencies will be on hand to answer and to assist with veterans-related questions and care. Stop by for face-to-face contact with the officials who work in your city to help provide your health care, benefits and quality advocating for veterans on their behalf – healthcare providers, legal assistance and disability care experts. Free refreshments will be provided by Lighthouse Charities. Twenty-five brand new bicycles will be raffled off.

For more information, please contact Jeff Gottlob, Assistant Veterans Service Officer, at 409-766-2448 or Jeffrey.Gottlob@co.galveston.tx.us.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2013

- o **Proposition 1** (HJR 62) The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed in action.
- o **Proposition 2** (HJR 79) The constitutional amendment eliminating an obsolete requirement for a State Medical Education Board and a State Medical Education Fund, neither of which is operational.
- o **Proposition 3** (HJR 133) The constitutional amendment to authorize a political subdivision of this state to extend the number of days that aircraft parts that are exempt from ad valorem taxation due to their location in this state for a temporary period may be located in this state for purposes of qualifying for the tax exemption."
- o **Proposition 4** (HJR 24) The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization.
- o **Proposition 5** (SJR 18) The constitutional amendment to authorize the making of a reverse mortgage loan for the purchase of homestead property and to amend lender disclosures and other requirements in connection with a reverse mortgage loan.
- o **Proposition 6** (SJR 1) The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas to assist in the financing of priority projects in the state water plan to ensure the availability of adequate water resources.
- o **Proposition 7** (HJR 87) The constitutional amendment authorizing a home-rule municipality to provide in its charter the procedure to fill a vacancy on its governing body for which the unexpired term is 12 months or less.
- o **Proposition 8** (HJR 147 and SJR 54) The constitutional amendment repealing Section 7, Article IX, Texas Constitution, which relates to the creation of a hospital district in Hidalgo County.
- o **Proposition 9** (SJR 42) The constitutional amendment relating to expanding the types of sanctions that may be assessed against a judge or justice following a formal proceeding instituted by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 5, 2013

See www.galvestonvotes.org for polling locations
and sample ballots.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Clear Creek Republican Women's PAC once again received the John Goodwin Tower Award of Excellence from the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW) at their 29th Biennial Convention, October 17-19, in San Antonio.

It was such an honor to accept this award on your behalf. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. You deserve all the credit and honor.

The John Tower Award is awarded by the TFRW at their Biennial Conventions to clubs who have met or exceeded requirements in five categories. The requirement needed is 700 points – CCRW exceeded that requirement this year with 850 points.

The Five Categories are:

Club Function: This is the day-to-day operation of the club.

Membership Development: Includes the recruitment of new members, retaining membership from previous year and having an online presence.

Programs: One of the requirements is to have a representative at TFRW Legislative Day in Austin, as well as having a wide range of guest speakers at regular monthly meetings. Other requirements include reporting on current state or national legislation at meetings and/or in the newsletter.

Campaign Activities: Includes contributing and promoting the election of Republican candidates. Hours accumulated by members for their work on campaign activities count toward the club's overall achievements.

Community Relations/Service: Includes voter registration drives, as well as reaching out to the community in ways such as contributing school supplies, fundraising for Community Service Project, and participating in a Caring for America project.

CCRW received the John Tower award in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011. In 2003, the club also received the Most Improved Newsletter Award.

In 2001, CCRW Received \$1000 from David Dewhurst for the A-Team (working for other candidates in Districts other than our own) and the TFRW Award for registering the most voters.

Again, congratulations for a job well done.

Submitted by Bonnie Wilson, President

A father took his two sons, ages three and seven, to play miniature golf. The tickets were \$3 for anyone over the age of six. When the father purchased two tickets, the cashier said, "You could have told me the older boy was six, and I wouldn't have known the difference." "The boys would have known the difference," the father replied.

How do you set an example? "What you are is as important as what you do."

Patricia Fripp, CSSI, Chicken Soup for the Soul

Submitted by Dolly Schroeder, CCRW Chaplain

CCRW Balance as of October 25:

\$ 13,842.84

Lesley Bruemmer, PAC Treasurer

tabtxngirl@gmail.com

832-632-2880 (h), 757-839-5917 (c)

**Clear Creek Republican Women PAC
General Membership Meeting
October 4, 2013**

President Bonnie Wilson called the Clear Creek Republican Women meeting to order at noon at Sudie's Catfish and Seafood Restaurant in League City, Texas. Arlene Taylor, Assistant Chaplain, led us in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge led by Wayne Faircloth. President Bonnie Wilson introduced the elected officials, candidates, and guests attending the meeting.

President Bonnie Wilson explained that due to the Government Shut Down Congressman Randy Weber is unable to speak at today's meeting. President Bonnie Wilson announced that Ryan Dennard, Galveston County Commissioner, Precinct 1 has graciously agreed to speak. The floor was given to Vice President of Programs, Roxann Lewis.

V.P-Programs, Roxann Lewis asked County Commissioner, Precinct 4, Ken Clark to introduce Ryan Dennard. Ryan Dennard shared his goals of building a better County Government by implementing sound business decisions, accountability, transparency, and common sense.

President Bonnie Wilson resumed the business meeting at 12:49 pm. She called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2013 meeting as printed in the October newsletter. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

President Bonnie Wilson announced the Treasurer's report will be filed for internal review.

Committee Chair Reports

Nominating Committee: Chairperson Barbara Vollmer presented a slate of officers nominated for the 2014 CCRW Executive Board. The following names were submitted:

Bonnie Wilson	President
Loretta Roberts	1 st Vice President Membership
Roxann Lewis	2 nd Vice President Programs
Mary Horn	Corresponding Secretary
Jean Sargent	Recording Secretary
Lesley Bruemmer	PAC Treasurer

Bonnie Wilson opened the floor for additional nominations. There were none. The nominations were closed. President Bonnie Wilson called for a motion to vote on the nominations as a slate as presented by the nominating committee. The motion was made and seconded. The motion passed. President Bonnie Wilson called for the vote on the 2014 Officer Nominations. The vote passed unanimously.

Legislative/State: Chairperson Loretta Roberts encouraged all members to research and understand the Constitutional Amendment Propositions on the November 5, 2013 ballot. Attention was given to Proposition 6 regarding State Water Implementation Fund for Texas.

Community Outreach: Kathleen McCumber, Chair, reported the need for volunteers to participate in the fundraiser event for League City Police Office, Carl Stoddard. The event is a Halloween-themed Zombie Ball held October 25, 7-11pm. and the League City Civic Center. Contact Kathleen at Kathleen@caglemccumber.com

Campaign Activities: Mary Horn, Chair, reported 3rd quarter volunteer hours totaled 2135 hours.

Vice President Programs: Roxann Lewis reported Congressman Randy Weber is rescheduled to speak at the November 1, 2013 meeting.

Announcements:

President Bonnie Wilson announced the Hispanic Republican event held at Barber Middle School, in Dickinson October 8, 2013.

Barbara Vollmer, Hospitality Co-Chair, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their cooperation for the venue change.

Jack Roady, District Attorney for Galveston County, reported on the successful fundraiser event, "Serving for Life" held by the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Texas City.

President Bonnie Wilson concluded the meeting with a reading of a prayer that was given on the US Senate floor the last week of September.

The meeting adjourned at 1:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Allcorn, CCRW Recording Secretary

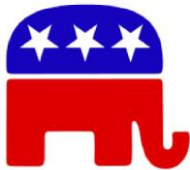
UPCOMING EVENTS

November

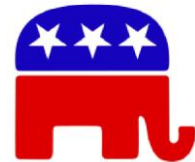
- 1 CCRW Monthly Meeting** – 11:00 am social, 11:30 am lunch, 12:00 Noon speaker & business meeting at new location (Sudie's Seafood Restaurant, 352 N Gulf Freeway, League City). \$11.00 lunch available with **reservations** made by Monday, October 28 (reservations.ccrw@gmail.com or Barbara J. Vollmer, 713-208-9527) .
- 4 University of Houston College Republicans** – 5:30 pm. Location TBA. Contact Michael Slavo at 979-476-8427 or uofhcollegerepublicans@gmail.com www.uofhcr.org
- 5 ELECTION DAY** (See www.galvestonvotes.org for polling locations.)
- 11 VETERANS DAY**
- 11 South Belt Area Republicans** – 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at Golden Corral (12500 Gulf Freeway @ Fuqua, Houston). Contact Angelina Gooden at goodenandgooden@sbcglobal.net
- 12 Friendswood Republican Women** – 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Meet & Greet at Friends Uncorked [101 S. Friendswood Drive (FM518 & FM 2351)]. Free appetizers & desserts, cash bar. No reservations required. Contact Deborah Winters Cheney at 281-224-7800 or Kathy Rogers at krogers@classwide.com or visit www.friendswoodRW.org
- 12 Mid County Republican Network** – 6:30 pm Social, 7:00 pm Program. For location and speaker information contact Karen Stephens at 409-771-3056.
- 19 Greater Houston Council** – 9:30 am at Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston (1 block north of I-10 at corner of Wirt Rd. & Westview)
- 20 Galveston Republican Women** – 11:30 am. Contact Jeannie Koenig at 512-567-8975 or lloyd.koenig@sbcglobal.net
- 28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY !**

December

- 4 Bay Area Republican Women** – Annual Christmas Egnog Party. See www.barw.org
- 6 CCRW Christmas Luncheon / Installation of Officers** at Tad Akers, 218 Clear Creek Ave., League City. More information next month.



Clear Creek





**Clear Creek Republican Women PAC
Galveston County Texas
2014 Membership Application**

Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____ Pct. # _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ Birthday (Month/Day) _____

Full Member \$25** _____ New Member _____ Renewal * _____

Associate Member \$15 _____ Member Since _____

Member of Another Club? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, name of club: _____

How did you hear about CCRW? Newspaper (name) _____

Website (name) _____ Friend (name) _____

Other (specify) _____

I would like to help with the following (please check all that interest you):

Audits _____ Awards _____ By-Laws _____ CCRW Directory _____ Historian _____

Hospitality _____ Legislation _____ Newsletter _____ Community Outreach _____

Parliamentarian _____ Publicity _____ Fundraising _____ Website _____

Hobbies / Areas, Topics of Interest / Comments _____

**Please mail membership application and check to:
Lesley Bruemmer, CCRW PAC Treasurer, 2301 Meadows, League City, Texas 77573
or call Lesley with credit card number
832-632-2880 (home), 757-839-5917 (cell)**

Date Paid	Check #	Cash	Amt. Paid \$
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*Dues and donations are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.
Corporate Contributions are not permitted.*