Kay’s Kolumn

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and I wish each of you a terrific new year. Before we move into 2007, on behalf of all our members I wish to honor Jan and thank her for all that she has done to bring Cy-Fair Republican Women into reality. Her tireless efforts this past almost two years have resulted in the foundation of a club that is already respected and accomplished. For those of you who were not able to make our Christmas party, the Board presented Jan with a keepsake ornament inscribed with the words “In Honor of Jan Ott, Founding President, 2005-2006 Cy-Fair Republican Women”. And she was also presented with flowers from the entire Membership as a thank-you and expression of all she means to us. She has set the standard high. Now we go to work to live up to it. ‘Thank you’ Jan.

Where do we start? Yes, of course it would have been so much more fun to have begun this year with a check mark in the win column. At least in Texas we managed to hold on to our majority. Our party is shell-shocked. Many Republicans are so discouraged and less than enthusiastic about the future....not just the future of the party but many people are terrified of the consequences of this election to the very safety of our nation.

People are unhappy with their government on many levels. I just don’t believe, as the Democrats do, that we lost seats in Congress because people want to pull out of Iraq and raise taxes and give more control of our lives to the government. We lost because we have failed to stick to our principals and articulate our message.

President Ronald Reagan reminded us that “No arsenal, no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.”

I believe that the American people still have the will and the moral courage to do what ever is necessary to preserve our nation. I believe with all my heart that while we do not all agree on everything as a party, that the central ideas embraced by Republicans are, in fact, the same principles embraced by most Americans. They just have not been properly introduced.

I think our biggest challenge is that we have failed to articulate just what the Republican ideas and positions are. The underlying problem is that too many of us (Americans) have no clue about what is going on. And too many people get their news and base their opinions on sound-bites of liberal journalists with an agenda. Many, dare I say most, of the American people are simply not interested at all. These people are our biggest challenge because they still vote. They have no clue what or for whom they are voting. They have been lead to the polls by emotion evoked by the Democrat rhetoric.

Worse yet, they have been given the opportunity to define us with impunity. Far too many people believe that Republicans are prejudiced bigots who are rich, greedy and look for ways to trample the “little guy”.

We must first find a way to be heard above the noise. And there is lots of noise. It does no good to have a message if no one can hear it. We must work to seek out and promote Republican candidates who not only share our vision for this nation but who are capable of articulating the message....OUR message; as they “represent” us.

Do we have the will and moral courage to do it? Yes, I believe we do. But it will take lots of hard work. I know we can do it and I know we can have a good time and make new friends doing it. We must roll up our sleeves and get back to grass-roots ‘polytickin’.

I am delighted to take on the challenge and look forward to working (and playing) with each of you. One thing is sure, we will not lack in topics to discuss and there will be plenty of work to go around.

Later..... Kay
Legislative Day in Austin

March 1, 2007 in Legislative Day in Austin. You will not want to miss this experience to dazzle Austin as the “Ladies in Red”. This is a one day trip to Austin. We will need to determine the number of ladies from CFRW who will be attending so that we can make arrangements for transportation as a group. This will be that perfect opportunity to spend time with other CFRW members and get to know each other. Not to mention the experience of seeing, first hand, our Texas Government at work. Please consider taking the day off from other plans and responsibilities and join us.

CFRW’s Second Annual Christmas Party

The Cy-Fair Republican Women held our second annual Christmas party on December 16, 2006. The party was well attended by members and spouses. State Representative Corbin Van Arsdale was also there and did an outstanding job inducting our new board members. There was plenty of delicious food and drink thanks to Mary Moss, Mary Atchison and Kay Waghorne. Also a big thanks to Kitty Berger who once again sent out beautiful invitations for the party.

Meeting/Luncheon
TUESDAY MORNING
JANUARY 9

Hearthstone Country Club
7615 Ameswood Road, Houston, TX

9:30 AM Social/Coffee
10:00 AM CFRW Meeting and Speaker

Lunch Following
$15 per person with lunch
$3 per person without lunch

RSVP:
Dawn Fobbs - 281-587-4054
msdawwn@sbcglobal.net
No later than Sunday, January 7

Dr. Cheryl Salyards

The speaker for our January meeting will be Dr. Cheryl Salyards with Cy-Fair ISD. Dr. Cheryl Salyards is the Administrative Assistant to Cy-Fair School Superintendent, Dr. David Anthony. Salyards earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Houston in 1974 and began her education career in Houston ISD teaching middle school students with hearing impairments. After completing her masters program at UH in 1977, she came to CFISD and taught elementary students with hearing impairments for one year. She then served as the supervisor of the Northwest Harris County Cooperative where she assisted in implementing and facilitating the deaf education program for seven Houston-area school districts. Salyards returned to Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in 1986 to become the districts special education coordinator and was promoted to director of special education two years later. In 1996, she was promoted to senior director for special education and completed her doctorate at UH in 1998. She served as assistant superintendent for educational support services that same year. Please join us in welcoming her at our January meeting.

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http://www.CFRW.net -
Cy-Fair Republican Women
**NEWS AND NOTES**

**Membership:** It’s always a good time to bring a friend (or friends) to one of our meetings. She just might enjoy our always informative speaker and our fellowship and will want to join our ranks!

**Remember** - Republican Women’s Clubs are grass roots at its finest. Be informed, be involved, **bring a friend**. We can make a difference!

**Campaign Activities:** It’s a new year and there will still be plenty of opportunities to learn ways to help out our Republican candidates. If you would like to learn more about how the clubs work you can attend the Greater Houston Council Nuts ‘N’ Bolts Workshop. There you will learn how to make your club more successful in getting the jobs done and also earn credit for volunteer hours. Any Federation Seminar, Convention and workshops can all be counted as volunteer hours because they help you to be a more successful volunteer. These are great places to also meet the women in the other clubs who have your same position and opens up possibilities to put your heads together and share effective ways to make our clubs more efficient.

**Club History:** Cy-Fair Republican Women was federated in June of 2005. The idea for a club in the northwest area of Houston was hatched when several ladies got together and decided that there was a need for a Republican Women’s group in our area. They met, agreed, and they got to work. In our short history, we have already accomplished a great deal toward our objectives. Besides volunteering for local candidates, we organized a candidate forum to introduce the candidates seeking the Senatorial seat for District 7 that was vacated by the retirement of Jon Lindsay. This turned out to be a very successful event that helped educate over 150 of the electorate on the views, positions, and qualifications of the candidates in this race.

As a group, we have already started reaching out to our community. We participated in collecting donations for Operation Interdependence, an organization that gathers and ships items and notes of encouragement to our troops deployed overseas. While our main goals are to foster education about the Republican Party and its candidates, and to promote Republican ideas and help elect Republicans, we hope to have fun and make long-lasting friendships through Cy-Fair Republican Women.

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Have you paid your dues? Dues were due December 31. The amount due is $25 for regular members and $17 for dual members. You can pay Dawn at the next meeting or mail in the form included with this newsletter.
Cy-Fair Republican Women
2007 Membership application

Name _____________________________ Spouse _____________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________ Precinct # ______________

Occupation ___________________________ Newsletter by Email? Yes___ No_____

Home Number ___________________________ Work Number ________________________

Email Address ______________________________________________________________

Best way to contact ___________________________________________________________

Member Type - Regular ($25.00)_____ Supporting (Men) ($30.00)_____ Associate (Regular members of another club) ($17.00)_____ Make checks payable to Cy-Fair Republican Women and mail or give to Dawn Fobbs, 6717 Bluebottle Ln. Katy TX 77449 Tel: (281) 587 - 4054

If you are a member of another club, which one? __________________________________

Special talents (i.e. computer skills, web pages, etc.) ________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEEES

Campaign activities______________ Fund Raising____________
Legislative____________________ Membership________________
Programs_______________________ Publicity_________________
Other_________________________ Historian__________________

Amt. Dues Paid __________________________ Date ________________
Cy-Fair Republican Women
12406 Francel Lane
Cypress, TX 77429

Affiliations:
- Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women
- Texas Federation of Republican Women
- National Federation of Republican Women

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Important links:

http://www.CFRW.net - Cy-Fair Republican Women

http://thomas.loc.gov/ - Texts of bills are updated several times a day.

http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/ - Updates on what is going on in the Texas legislature.

http://www.texaspolicy.com/ - The Texas Public Policy Foundation produces academically sound research on important issues.

http://www.ghcrwpac.org – Greater Houston Council

http://www.tfrw.org – Texas Federation of Republican Women

http://www.sos.state.tx.us - Texas Secretary of State web site offers more information on proposed constitutional amendments.