



The RIGHT WRITE-UP

The Republican Club of Comal County

*A political group of conservative Republican men and women.
Our goal is to inform about current issues and conservative candidates.*

Volume 8, Issue 10

rcocc.org

November, 2023

OUR NEXT MEETING

THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY

will meet on Tuesday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. *(social mixer at 5:30)*

**at the First Protestant Church of New Braunfels, 172 W. Coll Street.
(Enter the parking lot by the Civic Center from Coll St.)**

The Club will provide light refreshments such as veggie trays, snacks, and desserts. The Club will also provide utensils, water, tea, and coffee. Members and guests can bring salads and desserts to share, if desired.

We encourage members to arrive early. This will allow time to pay dues, greet friends and guests, and partake of refreshments before the meeting starts.

Please share this meeting announcement with friends and family. As we grow in numbers, our influence grows with our elected officials, and they will respond to our calls on legislative priorities.

Questions? Call or email our President, Al Highfield, at 830-255-1367 or at Albert.Highfield@yahoo.com.



**Our guest speaker will be our
Texas State Land Commissioner**

Dr. Dawn Buckingham.

**She will talk about her duties as Land Commissioner
and the challenges facing the state.**

Please join us for this timely and informative talk.

See page 3 for more information about Dr. Buckingham.

A Message from our Club President

Hello members of the RCCC! As we go through the recent events in the Middle East, particularly in Israel, it is evident that a path to global conflict could be near. We must support our leaders in Washington to make sound decisions about entering conflicts. Granted, I know most of us are Bible-believing Christians and we support Israel. Remember in early 2024 (March) there will be a Primary Election for candidates for the General Election in November 2024. Also, we need to support our Precinct Conventions and volunteer to go to the County Convention. Everyone should check with their Precinct Chair for information. A list of precincts and the chairs is listed in our Newsletter every month (page 6 this month). If you don't know your precinct number, check with the Republican Party Headquarters at 265 Landa Street in New Braunfels.

The Newsletter and lots of other good Club information can be found at rccc.org. Also, there are lots of photos, videos, and events posted there!

President Albert F. Highfield

“GOD BLESS TEXAS”

OUR PATRON PROGRAM

The Republican Club of Comal County is thankful for those who have contributed to our Club through the Patron Program during 2023.

Patrons donate \$100 per year per person to help us finance our election strategy.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Suzanne Badger | Helen Horvath | Austinn Pruneda |
| Robbie Borchers | Don Johnson | Leigh Ann Rowlands |
| Hoss Boyd | Barbara Layer | Craig Rowlands |
| Geneva Boyd | Susie LeCanu | Sylvai Sanchez |
| Edison Bryant | Donna Lee | Harold Sanchez |
| Chris Byrd | Kerry Ledford | Maria Seiler |
| Derick Carver | Doug Leacock | Patrick Seiler |
| Suzi Casey | Don Lieske | Joy Streater |
| Ruth Chambers | Al Malmsten | Christopher Suchil |
| Bill Cooley | W. Lindy Menefee | Anita Valdez |
| Mark Delaney | Sharon Hall Monge | John Walker |
| Steve Gallets | Mark Montgomery | Susan Walker |
| Fred Gibbons | Cindi Montgomery | Kevin Webb |
| Albert Haddad | Naomi Narvaiz | Deborah Wigington |
| Scott Haag | John O'Brien | John Young |
| Albert Highfield | Kathy Phillips | Diane Young |
| Vicki Highfield | Robert Phillips | |
| Marty Hiles | Sue Piner | |

Contact our Membership Chairman, Cindi Montgomery, at 214-908-7212, to become a Patron member or for more information.

Patrons receive a special personalized Texas flag name tag.

Our guest speaker for November: Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

Commissioner Buckingham's family were among the first settlers to Texas seven generations ago, and that tough, independent, pioneer spirit is deeply rooted in her personality. True to her Texas roots, her commitment to service began early, serving as a volunteer firefighter and attending the Texas A&M Fire School. She is also an avid hunter, outdoorswoman, and steward of the land. She made history in 2016 as the first woman elected to the Texas State Senate from Travis County. Without slowing down, she made history again in 2022 when elected as the 29th, and state's first female Commissioner of the General Land Office, Texas' oldest state agency.

Dawn came from humble roots—growing up on a ranch near the Texas coast and then moved to Central Texas. She has never settled for less than her dreams. Wanting to attend college, but without the money to do so, Dawn lived at home, working two jobs to pay her own way through college at the University of Texas at Austin. With endurance of spirit she graduated Magna Cum Laude and debt-free. It was during college that she met the love of her life and husband of 31 years, Ed Buckingham. Dawn and Ed both received their medical degrees from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and they have two children. Dawn then went on to become a successful Oculoplastic Surgeon. Her commitment to service and recognition for her work has allowed her to hold leadership positions in local, state, and national medical organizations.

Dawn embodies the American Dream. Through hard work, a "never-quit" attitude, and perseverance, she has risen above her circumstances. Becoming a self-made small business owner employing Texans, serving others in her profession and as an elected official, she has always given back to her community.

As your Land Commissioner, Dr. Dawn Buckingham brings a lifetime of experience to the office. She is committed to helping Texans after a disaster, supporting Texas energy, ensuring that every child in Texas receives a high-quality public education, serving Texas Veterans, and securing the border to keep our communities safe.

The General Land Office manages state lands, operates the Alamo, helps Texans recovering from natural disasters, helps fund Texas public education through the Permanent School Fund, provides benefits to Texas Veterans, and manages the vast Texas coast.

The Republican Philosophy

That the rights of the individual to achieve the best that is within him, as long as he respects the rights of others, is the source of our nation's strength.

That government exists to protect the freedom of opportunity in which each individual's creative ability can flourish.

That government activities should be limited to those things which people cannot do at all, or cannot do so well for themselves.

The most effective government is government closest to the people.

That those who cannot provide for themselves should be assisted by both government and society, but that every effort should be made to help them to become self-supporting, productive citizens with pride in their independence.

That equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity belong to all, regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or national origin.

That the preservation of our nation and the security of our citizens depend upon the constitution, the laws, and the courts, and that respect for them is the responsibility of every individual.

That government is accountable for maintaining sound money and a responsible economy. Individual rights, liberties, and properties are continually eroded when citizens are oppressed by excessive taxation, inflation, government waste, and over regulation.

That the government is responsible for national defense and that only a strong America can remain a free America.

That it is absolutely essential to maintain a strong national defense posture in order that we may at all times negotiate from a position of strength, not weakness, in our continuing efforts toward peace and friendship.

That these concepts are the foundation of our national strength and the Republican Party, which is committed to their preservation, is the party of today and the party of the future.

Our Officers for 2023

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President | Al Highfield |
| Vice President | Marty Hiles |
| Secretary | Leigh Ann Rowlands |
| Treasurer | Patrick Seiler |
| Past President | Mary Wohl |
| County Chair | Sue Piner |

Committee Chairs

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Membership | Maria Seiler |
| Legislative Affairs | Lori Granados |
| Campaign Activities | Maria Seiler |
| Hospitality | <i>(Currently vacant)</i> |
| Parliamentarian | <i>(Currently vacant)</i> |
| Publicity Chair | Audrey Johnson Scheper |
| Facebook | <i>(Currently vacant)</i> |
| Newsletter Editor | Kerry Ledford |
| Special Events | Donna Lee |
| Special Projects | Ruth Chambers |
| Web Master | Audrey Johnson Scheper |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Marty Hiles |
| Chaplain | Steve Ceh |

Comal County Precinct Chairs

Why do we publish the Comal County Precinct Chair List in the Republican Club Newsletter each month? Our mission as active Republicans is to support the political process. Each one of us should know what Precinct we live in and who serves as our Precinct Chair.

We should offer our assistance to our Precinct Chair for the elections. We can assist as an Election clerk or Election Judge on Election Day. We can offer to block walk to inform our neighbors of early voting. We can block walk for our chosen candidates. We can offer to take a list of Republicans to call with a reminder of the times and places to vote early. There are a number of ways an individual can help to assure a maximum Republican vote.

Studies show that when people intend to vote, but fail to vote early, a substantial percentage of that vote is lost on Election Day. There is a lot to be done. Please offer your help to your Precinct Chair.

| <u>Precinct</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| County Chair | Sue Piner |
| Vice Chair | Marty Hiles |
| Recording Secretary | Judy Walker |
| Treasurer | Don Johnson |
| Assistant Treasurer | Vicky Highfield |
| 101 | Sharon Hall Monge |
| 102 | Kaci Sisk |
| 103 | Laura Buske |
| 104 | J.B. Williamson |
| 105 | Ernie Lee |
| 106 | Chris Byrd |
| 107 | Anita Valdez |
| 108 | Albert Highfield |
| 109 | Clint Palpau |
| 110 | JoAnne Martin |
| 201 | Marty Hiles |
| 202 | <i>(vacant)</i> |
| 203 | James "Hoss" Boyd |
| 204 | Marlin Brown |
| 205 | Steve White |
| 206 | Kathy Phillips |
| 207 | John Brewer |
| 208 | Geri Baker |
| 301 | Will Moravits |
| 302 | Edison Bryant |
| 303 | Kenneth Kasper |
| 304 | <i>(vacant)</i> |
| 305 | Isabel Ibarra |
| 306 | Barbara Harrell |
| 307 | Timothy Davis |
| 308 | Mary Lou Erben |
| 401 | Robbie Borchers |
| 402 | Melinda Rapp |
| 403 | Carolyn Besselman |
| 404 | Teri Taylor |
| 405 | Molly Vogt |
| 406 | Joe Carroll |
| 407 | Susan Walker |
| 408 | Don Johnson |

Our Mission

The mission of the Republican Club of Comal County is to promote “Faith, Family, and Freedom” by providing information and education about critical political issues, by encouraging active participation in the political process, by supporting conservative Republican nominees, and by fostering loyalty to the Republican Party and its conservative ideals.

The Republican Contract with America, 2022

- 1) A Safe and Law-Abiding America. Crime prevention and punishment is mostly a local and state affair. But the federal government promises to prosecute fully any criminal who crosses state lines or uses interstate communications to commit arson, public destruction, smash-and-grab looting, or general attacks on any federal property within the states.
- 2) Affordable Energy for an Energy-Independent America. Restoration of gas and oil energy independence; reopening of federal lands for new energy leases; fast-tracking natural gas and oil pipelines; encouragement and incentives to mine rare and precious metals inside the United States needed for batteries and new sources of energy.
- 3) A Secure Border. Immediate completion of the border wall. Deportation of all those who crossed illegally between 2017 and 2024 and all criminals convicted of felonies or serious misdemeanors; employer sanctions; an end to catch-and-release; all refugee seekers apply outside the United States; a tax on remittances sent south of the border on those here illegally and on public assistance; the end of the primacy of family considerations in fast-tracking immigration requests, replaced by meritocratic considerations of English facility, skill sets, and education. All immigration would be predicated on legality, diversity, meritocracy, and measured and manageable numbers necessary for assimilation and integration.
- 4) A Sacrosanct Constitution and Preservation of Long-Held Traditions. On record for no changes to the Constitution; no dismantling of the Electoral College; no federalization of states' voting laws; no increase in a nine-justice Supreme Court; no statehood for Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico; no end to the Senate filibuster.
- 5) The Restoration of Election Day. Encouragement to the states to limit mail-in balloting, return to the old notion of absentee balloting as an exception rather than the norm, and cut back on extended/early balloting — with the goal that 60 to 70% of ballots cast are done so on Election Day.
- 6) A "Don't Tread on Me" Foreign Policy. Strong support for the sanctity of allied nations. Deterrence against Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and other belligerents. A realistic foreign policy of "No better friend, no worse enemy." An end to optional large, on-the-ground military engagements in the Middle East. A return of Pentagon emphasis on battle readiness rather than social justice and woke agendas, with budgets redirected to missile defense and naval and air deterrence.
- 7) Towards a Balanced Budget. Expenditures must match revenues. An update of the Simpson-Bowles National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform or enactment of its recommendations, with the aim of achieving a balanced budget in four years.
- 8) Anti-Trust, Anti-Monopoly Legislation. An end to Silicon Valley's vast monopolies, cartels, and immunity from public-utility regulations.
- 9) Strict Enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Prohibition of the use of racial bias/advantage/preference in the operations of public local, state, and federal agencies. No federal funds allotted for critical-race-theory indoctrination.
- 10) No Federal Funds for Lawbreakers. An end to federal support of state agencies and private institutions that violate federal statutes and the Bill of Rights, whether sanctuary-city jurisdictions or campuses whose speech and trial codes violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. Loss of tax-free status on income from university endowments of more than \$10 billion.

The Recipe for a Happy Nation Requires Religious and Moral Instruction in Schools

A Founding Father's vision for American education included a strong foundation of religious and moral instruction. Annie Holmquist, The Epoch Times, Oct. 31

As a grade school student, one of my favorite field trips was spending a day attending the one-room school at a local historical site. My friends and I would pack our noontime meal in lunch buckets, dress in aprons and bonnets, and participate in a spelling bee at the close of the day.

But our lessons in the classroom covered more than just the three Rs. Often, the teacher would explain the types of trouble that students of old would get into, and the consequences they would receive for such behavior. To demonstrate, my friend Teresa got her braid "dipped" in the inkwell by a "naughty" boy, who was then sent to the corner to wear the dunce cap, while my friend Amy once had to play the antsy girl who had to stand at the blackboard, nose to a chalk circle, to teach her to remain still.

Such behaviors seem miniscule by today's standards, but they demonstrate the expectation of moral instruction and discipline in the classrooms of yore.

Sadly, such moral classroom instruction is no more, and parents are noticing. A recent poll of homeschoolers released by The Washington Post found that 34 percent of homeschooling parents were teaching their child at home in order to "provide religious instruction" and 68 percent were doing so in order to "provide moral instruction."

Some may immediately reply to such news by saying that moral or religious instruction doesn't belong in the public schools—they are supposed to be secular institutions, governed by secular principles, right?

But at least one of our nation's Founders didn't look at it that way. In fact, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signatory to the Declaration of Independence, declared religious and moral instruction as key components of the nation's education system, critical to the health of the country. Delineating the following principles for education, he encouraged Americans to lay "the foundations for nurseries of wise and good men."

Patriotism as a Form of Moral Instruction

Love of country is often viewed as a bad thing in today's culture. Patriotism is divisive, many say—we are seeking to raise global citizens, after all.

Rush shunned such an idea, encouraging Americans to educate the nation's youth within our own borders, for "the principle of patriotism stands in need of the reinforcement of prejudice." To foster this connection to the nation and its laws, Rush encouraged building camaraderie among young students through community events such as sport and work, for building such connections "add greatly to the obligations of mutual benevolence."

In cultivating patriotism and community in students, we subsequently teach the morality of kindness—a prized but often absent virtue in today's culture.

No Gender Gap in Moral Instruction

The Founding Fathers weren't the feminine oppressors many make them out to be, a fact Rush demonstrated in his advocacy for women to learn the same "principles of liberty and government"—those derived from moral instruction—that men learned. Rush did so because he recognized the influence women have on a society.

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"The opinions and conduct of men are often regulated by the women," he wrote, "and their approbation is frequently the principal reward of the hero's dangers, and the patriot's toils." He further noted that women are the ones who form "the first impressions upon the minds of children"; thus, instructing them in moral principles ensured that such instruction would be passed along to subsequent generations.

Religious Instruction Is the Seed of Liberty

Local and national politics are filled with tirades and treatises on the failings of public education, with many clueless about how to turn around this perpetual disaster.

Rush offered a simple answer to this problem, noting that good education needs a good foundation, and "the only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in Religion."

Religion is the only good soil in which virtue can grow, Rush continued, and when virtue is cultivated, it brings forth liberty, "the object and life of all republican governments."

That liberty is vital to our nation's government is seen multiple times in the Constitution's First Amendment. With liberty, our citizens have a free press through which they can learn various ideas and theories; with liberty, citizens can learn about the right way to petition the government; with liberty, citizens can gather to exchange ideas, to hear religious teaching, and to listen to the speech of others and express their own thoughts.

In short, religious instruction sets off the chain reaction leading to a free country where children can learn with free and open minds. Kiss that religious instruction goodbye, and you can expect the dominos to fall in a long line toward totalitarianism.

The Best Form of Religious Instruction

If religious instruction is so important, what religious beliefs should be advanced in the United States' schools?

Here again Rush had an answer. "I had rather see the opinions of Confucius or Mahomed inculcated upon our youth, than see them grow up wholly devoid of a system of religious principles," he wrote.

But if given a choice, Rush preferred that schools teach Christianity because of the character it produces in its adherents—including "humility, self-denial, and brotherly kindness"—and the benefits it brings to a republican form of government. "All its doctrines and precepts are calculated to promote the happiness of society, and the safety and well being of civil government," he wrote.

The Recipe for a Happy Nation

Rush concluded his thoughts on education in the fledgling United States by writing:

"From the combined and reciprocal influence of religion, liberty and learning upon the morals, manners and knowledge of individuals, of these, upon government, and of government, upon individuals, it is impossible to measure the degrees of happiness and perfection to which mankind may be raised."

In other words, the recipe for a happy nation comes by combining religion, morality, and education.

Uttered today, such thoughts would meet with accusations of failing to separate church and state. But given that Rush was one of the founding members of our nation, he likely understood that our government would cease to function properly without laying the foundation of morality and religion in the hearts of young students.

Perhaps it's time we try his suggestions once again.

RCOCC Community Outreach for 2023

New Braunfels Food Bank Partnership:

- ◆ Every dollar donated = 7 meals
- ◆ Need Food donated
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities (Packing Food & Garden)

Army Fischer House Partnership:

- ◆ Provides housing to Veterans whose families are getting medical attention at Brooke Army Medical Center
- ◆ Need monetary donations (tax deductible)
- ◆ Donations of supplies (toothbrushes, batteries, etc.)
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities as a team

Fourth of July Parade: New Braunfels:

- ◆ RCOCC Float
- ◆ Option to place Flags at one of the local bases
- ◆ We could partner with other Republican Clubs for the Flags

Freedom Walk: 9-11:

- ◆ Have RCOCC Members attend wearing RCOCC T-Shirts

Halloween: October 31:

- ◆ Have RCOCC Volunteers pass out Candy
- ◆ Collect Candy in September from volunteers

Christmas:

- ◆ RCOCC Parade
- ◆ Wreaths at Fort Sam or another military base
- ◆ We could partner with other Republican Clubs for the wreaths

Kerry J. Ledford, Ph.D.



**Community
Volunteer,
Newsletter Writer**



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Marty Hiles
Texian Partisan

Evil will give no Mercy to those who surrender!

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Physical: 100 Main Plaza
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

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Fax: (830) 620-5380
haagsc@co.comal.tx.us



Date _____

___ Renewal ___ New

Precinct # _____

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Spouse Occupation: _____ Spouse Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Membership Dues*

Family \$35 or Individual \$25

Yes, I want to be a Patron in addition to my regular Membership.

Being a Patron aids in Fundraising and includes Special Benefits.

Patron \$100

Available to Volunteer

- ___ Legislative Liaison ___ Refreshments ___ Programs ___ Events
- ___ Training ___ Election Clerk ___ Phone Bank ___ Fundraising
- ___ Media/Letters to Editor

Mail to: RCCC Membership

265 Landa Street

New Braunfels, TX 78132

Website: www.rcocc.org

*Dues are paid annually by calendar year