



# 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 9, Issue 9

[rcocc.org](http://rcocc.org)

September, 2024

### OUR NEXT MEETING

#### THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY

will meet on Tuesday, September 24, 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](mailto:Albert.Highfield@yahoo.com).



The speaker for our September meeting will be

**Dr. Donna Campbell**

**Texas Senator, District 25**

She will talk about the national election  
and the Texas legislature's 89th session.

Please join us for this timely and informative talk.

Please see more information about him on page 3.

### A Message From Our President

Good day patriots! Being a Veteran, I am proud of our country and defend our way of life every day! Many of the decisions of the current leaders have jeopardized our way of life. When a Presidential candidate is threatened with assassination, it is very disturbing. As true-blooded Americans and Republicans, we must get out and vote for our candidate. The future of our nation and our republic is in danger of being a thing of the past. We cannot leave a radical, chaotic, unhinged world for our children, grandchildren, and families to endure.

The goal is to keep Texas and the United States governments RED!!!!

Get out and vote!!!

God Bless and keep Texas and America RED forever!

**Please visit our website at [rccc.org](http://rccc.org) for helpful information.**

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President Albert F. Highfield

### OUR PATRON PROGRAM

The Republican Club of Comal County is thankful for those who have contributed to our Club through the Patron Program during 2024. Patrons donate \$100 per year per person to help us finance our election strategy.

Susan Allick	Steve Gallets	W. Lindy Menefee	Patrick Seiler
Jan Brewer	Lori Granados	Mike Mikell	Joy Streater
John Brewer	Scott Haag	Cindi Montgomery	Christopher Suchil
Hoss Boyd	Albert Highfield	Charlie Motz	Teri Taylor
Geneva Boyd	Vicki Highfield	Jeffrey Narvaiz	Jennifer Tharp
Tracy Byrne	Marty Hiles	Naomi Narvaiz	Patty Kirk-Trimble
Joe Carroll	Pat Hingst	John O'Brien	Anita Valdez
Suzi Casey	Patricia Kettler	Sandy O'Brien	John Walker
Ruth Chambers	Susie LeCanu	Austinn Pruneda	Susan Walker
Bill Cooley	Kerry Ledford	Shane Rapp	John Young
Tom Ferguson	Donna Lee	Leigh Ann Rowlands	Diane Young
Nancy Ferguson	Doug Leacock	Craig Rowlands	Jason Young
Bill Foote	Al Malmsten	Maria Seiler	

Contact our Membership Chairman, Maria Seiler, at 612-845-4027, to become a Patron member or for more information.

Patrons receive a special personalized Texas flag name tag.

## Dr. Donna Campbell

Senator Donna Campbell, M.D., is a board certified emergency room physician and proud parent of four daughters. In 2012, she became just the fifteenth woman ever elected to serve in the Texas Senate. She lives in the New Braunfels area and represents Senate District 25, a seven-county, Texas Hill Country district which includes portions of San Antonio and Austin.

Senator Campbell was born on a naval base and grew up with a great respect for the military and law enforcement. Her father served in the U.S. Navy and later as a trooper in the highway patrol. Her mother worked in factories most of her life until studying to become a nurse at the age of 48.

Senator Campbell completed her Masters of Nursing from Texas Woman's University and received her M.D. from Texas Tech University, where she was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the honor society for medical schools. She completed her residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston and was awarded the prestigious Morton Award as an outstanding resident in ophthalmology. As a proud woman of faith, Senator Campbell has volunteered with Christian Eye Ministries and performed hundreds of eye surgeries in the West African nation of Ghana.

Senator Campbell has received top honors for her legislative accomplishments from the National Rifle Association, Texas Alliance for Life, Texas Values, and the Texas Veterans Commission. She has been recognized as a Top Courageous Conservative three times in a row by the Texas Conservative Coalition and designated as a Fighter for Free Enterprise by the Texas Association of Business.

During the 88th Legislative Session, Senator Campbell was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor to serve as Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Nominations and Vice-chair of Senate Committee on Education. Additionally, she is a member of the Business & Commerce and Finance committees. Prior to the 88th Legislative Session in 2023, Senator Campbell served as chairwoman for Veteran Affairs from 2015-2021.

In her spare time, Senator Campbell enjoys spending time with her family and is an avid runner and hiker.

### Our Officers for 2024

President	Al Highfield
Vice President	Marty Hiles
Secretary	Leigh Ann Rowlands
Treasurer	Patrick Seiler
Past President	Mary Wohl
County Chair	Mark Montgomery

### Committee Chairs

Membership	Naomi Narvaiz
Legislative Affairs	Lori Granados
Campaign Activities	Naomi Narvaiz
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	Mark Montgomery
Vice Chair	Marty Hiles
Recording Secretary	Judy Walker
Treasurer	Vicky Highfield
Assistant Treasurer	<i>(vacant)</i>
101	Richard Keisheimer
102	Kaci Sisk
103	Tracy Byrne
104	Marcia Stewart
105	Ernie Lee
106	Chris Byrd
107	Anita Valdez
108	Albert Highfield
109	Clint Pulpan
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	Lori Granados
303	Kenneth Kasper
304	<i>(vacant)</i>
305	Isabel Ibarra
306	Naomi Narvaiz
307	Timothy Davis
308	Mary Lou Erben
401	Robbie Borchers
402	Regina McDaniel
403	Carolyn Besselman
404	Teri Taylor
405	<i>(vacant)</i>
406	Joe Carroll
407	Susan Walker
408	Chrystina Power

## Trump Outlines '9 Steps' He'll Use to 'Drain the Swamp'

By Sandy Fitzgerald, NewsMax, 7 September 2024

Former President Donald Trump, speaking at a rally at the Central Wisconsin Airport in Mosinee, Wisconsin, railed against Vice President Kamala Harris while outlining his "nine steps" to "drain the swamp" in Washington, D.C.

"Our country is a failing nation right now," Trump told supporters. "It's a laughingstock all over the world. Over the past four years, our country has seen the sickness and corruption of the Washington swamp exposed like never before."

First, Trump said he will end what he calls the weaponization of government and the abuse of law enforcement against political opponents.

"Under comrade Kamala [Harris], Christians and pro-life activists are rotting in prison for the crime of praying in public," Trump said during his rally, which aired live on Newsmax and simulcast on the Newsmax2 online streaming platform. "We will completely overhaul Kamala's corrupt Department of Injustice and turn the DOJ back into the best law enforcement agency on the planet."

He added that under his presidency, the Department of Justice will focus on "taking down bloodthirsty cartels, transnational gangs, and radical Islamic terrorists" rather than focusing on persecuting Republicans such as himself.

Second, Trump said that he will bring back free speech in America.

"Fake news is a threat to this country," Trump said. "Some are good, but most of them are absolutely terrible human beings. They are the police force for bad. They are very dishonest. When you're a politician and happen to be a Republican, they write just the opposite of what the facts are."

He added that as president, he will "sign an executive order banning any federal employee from colluding to limit speech — and we will fire every federal bureaucrat who has engaged in domestic censorship under the Harris regime."

The third step will be to "expel the warmongers" and to "carry out a much-needed cleanup of the military-industrial complex," said Trump.

"We have these people who want to go to war all the time," said Trump. "You know why? Missiles are \$2 million apiece ... I had no wars. Remember crooked Hillary [Clinton] used to say, 'Look at him; he's going to cause wars.' No, my personality stopped wars."

The fourth step, he said, will be to curtail the power of federal bureaucrats.

He added that at the suggestion of tech billionaire Elon Musk, he will create a Government Efficiency Commission to conduct a financial and performance audit of the full federal government.

Trump promised as his fifth step, his administration will "drain the government education swamp and stop the abuse of your taxpayer dollars to indoctrinate America's youth."

This includes eliminating the federal Department of Education and sending control of schools back to the states.

For the sixth step, Trump said his administration will not tolerate equity policies "that punish Americans based on race or gender."

"America will return to the merit principle, which has just been approved by the Supreme Court. And hard work will get you there."

As the seventh step, Trump said his administration will work with former independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to take on corruption at the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, "and other institutions that are dominated by corporate power and China."

"We will establish a panel of top experts to investigate what is causing the decadeslong increase in chronic health problems and childhood diseases, including auto-immune disorders, autism, obesity, infertility, and more," he added.

The eighth step will be to ask Congress to pass sweeping reforms preventing foreign influence-peddling "like we have seen with the Biden crime family."

And as the ninth and final step, Trump said he will support modifying the 25th Amendment "to make clear that if a vice president lies or engages in a conspiracy to cover up the incapacity of the president of the United States, it is grounds for impeachment and removal from office," said Trump.

He said that would be because of what happened this past summer with Biden dropping out of the race after questions arose about his capabilities following the first presidential debate of the season.

"If he didn't go to that debate, he'd still be running," said Trump.



## After four years, Wendy Davis' lawsuit against "Trump Train" goes to trial

A jury will decide if a group of Trump supporters violated state and federal law when they allegedly harassed a Biden campaign bus on a Texas highway in 2020, frightening those on board.

By Kate McGee, San Antonio Express-News, Sept. 6, 2024

It's been four years since a campaign bus carrying Wendy Davis and others was nearly run off the road by a so-called "Trump Train" — a caravan of Republican activists waving giant flags showing support for Donald Trump.

Drivers of more than a dozen cars and trucks, honking and shouting, followed the bus on Interstate 35 between San Antonio and San Marcos, weaving in and out of traffic and causing a minor collision between a Biden campaign staffer following the bus and a Trump supporter.

Ultimately, the bus driver made an abrupt and speedy exit off the highway to lose the crowd.

Trump responded with enthusiastic approval: "I LOVE TEXAS!" he wrote in a tweet accompanied by a video of the incident. Democrats subsequently canceled three Biden campaign events in Central Texas due to safety concerns.

On Friday, the "Trump Train" heads to court in Austin. The trial stems from a 2021 lawsuit filed by Davis, a former state senator who became a Democratic sensation for her filibuster of an abortion restriction bill, along with the bus driver and a Biden campaign staffer. The trio sued multiple members of the caravan, alleging they violated state law and the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 by engaging in a conspiracy to disrupt the campaign and intimidate those on the bus.

With Trump back on the ballot, Davis and the others want to send a message that political intimidation will not go unpunished.

Davis and the two other plaintiffs — former campaign staffer David Gins and bus driver Timothy Holloway — said the members of the Trump Train attempted to prevent them from showing support for Biden.

"The violence and intimidation that our plaintiffs endured on the highway for simply supporting the candidate of their choice is an affront to the democratic values we hold dear as Americans," said John Paredes, an attorney for the plaintiffs who works with Protect Democracy, a Washington, D.C.-based group that combats authoritarian threats to American democracy. "Our plaintiffs are bravely standing up against this injustice to ensure that the trauma they endured catalyzes positive change rather than stains our democracy."

The defendants, who have characterized their actions on I-35 as free speech, say the lawsuit is an example of how the government can be used to silence conservative Americans.

"This is a travesty of Justice to see an administration weaponize the law against average Americans for exercising basic Constitutional rights," Joeylynn Mesaros, one of the defendants, wrote on a website that she and her husband created to raise awareness about the lawsuit and raise money for legal fees.

Jury selection begins Friday in the civil trial, where the participants of the Trump Train could be on the hook for punitive and compensatory damages as well as attorneys fees. But if Davis and the other plaintiffs are successful, it could also bolster ways the Klan Act might be used to fight back against alleged acts of political intimidation and violence.

The Klan Act was originally passed to protect the newly-gained civil and legal rights of former slaves and prohibit the Ku Klux Klan from terrorizing and intimidating Black citizens to prevent them from voting. In recent years, it has been cited in lawsuits targeting Trump and far-right activists, including one against the organizers of the white supremacist rally, Unite the Right, in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Klan Act was also cited in suits against Trump and groups involved in the Jan. 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol, and again in a lawsuit accusing Trump of eroding trust in the 2020 election to subvert the election results. Many of those lawsuits are ongoing.

The six defendants heading to trial — two others settled their cases last year — are represented by a smattering of high-profile conservative lawyers. One is represented by Quico Canseco, a former member of Congress and Tea Party Republican. Another is represented by the Thomas More Law Center, a Christian conservative nonprofit out of Michigan. They did not respond to a request for comment.

Last week, Jason Greaves, a lawyer for the firm that has represented Trump in multiple Jan. 6 lawsuits and who represented Trump in a lawsuit to overturn the 2020 election, signed on as an attorney for two of the Trump Train defendants. Those defendants were planning to represent themselves in the trial until recently. "Trolling is FUN"

The campaign bus for Joe Biden's 2020 presidential campaign was on a tour across Texas when it arrived in Central Texas a few days before Election Day. A social media user tweeted "Trolling is FUN," and called for other Trump supporters to "escort the Biden [bus] coming through San Antonio" with the hashtag #TrumpTrainTexas.

When the bus left San Antonio, Davis was on board with Gins. Another campaign staffer was following in his car.

Once they left San Antonio, dozens of vehicles with Trump and American flags surrounded the bus, shouting and honking at it, and tried to slow it down.

Videos captured "participants in the caravan driving within feet of the bus while yelling, making hand gestures, and filming, pulling out in front of the bus from the highway shoulder, and brake-checking the many-ton bus as it attempts to drive down a major highway with people inside," court records said.

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Eight months after the encounter on I-35, Davis and the others filed the lawsuit against multiple Trump supporters who were allegedly following the bus.

They argued that the Trump Train members' driving was intentionally aggressive, motivated by their belief "that extraordinary measures were justified to ensure that Democrats were defeated in 2020," Judge Robert Pitman wrote when he denied the defendants' request to dismiss the case last month.

The plaintiffs also said the actions were premeditated.

"In the months and weeks leading up to the Incident, Defendants allegedly expressed support for aggressive tactics against Democrats, posting messages that supported making liberals 'cry' or driving into a crowd of protesters to 'instill a little bit of fear,'" Pitman wrote.

According to court documents, Davis and the other plaintiffs said they suffered psychological and emotional injury from the event. Holloway said he was unable to drive a bus following the experience and eventually started a new business to avoid driving. Davis said she developed insomnia and still experiences anxiety at public speaking engagements. She also started hiring private security for events for the first time in her career. Gins said he developed acute anxiety and struggled to get out of bed in the morning.

The plaintiffs also filed a second lawsuit against San Marcos police, accusing law enforcement of turning a blind eye to the attack. The 911 transcripts filed in that lawsuit revealed San Marcos police refused to send help despite repeated requests from those on the bus.

Last fall, the city settled with the plaintiffs. As part of the settlement, San Marcos police officers and professional staff must receive training on responding to political violence and voter intimidation and ways to develop community trust. The city paid \$175,000 to four plaintiffs, one of whom has since dropped from the case.

#### The defendants

The six defendants in the case are all Texas residents who were involved with other Trump Trains in the southern and central parts of the state in 2020, according to court documents. They were identified via photos and videos on social media that showed their vehicles present at the time of the incident.

Stephen and Randi Ceh were leaders of a local Trump Train group in which they organized caravans of supporters to meet up and travel around the area, including the day the Biden bus traveled through Central Texas. Randi Ceh is accused of acting as "mission control," on the day of the incident, alerting participants of the bus' whereabouts. Her husband, Stephen, was in close contact with his wife and their adult daughter, Hannah, who was following the bus. Hannah Ceh and her husband, Kyle Kruger, were also named in the suit. They settled their case last year. The terms were not made public, but they issued public apologies for their involvement.

Greaves, who is representing the Cehs, said in a statement that the couple looks forward "to complete vindication on the merits for exercising their God-given, and First Amendment-protected right to free expression." Earlier this year, Steve Ceh — a pastor and chaplain for the Comal County Republican Party — started holding Trump Train rallies again with the New Braunfels Trump Train.

Another defendant, Eliazar Cisneros, who confirmed he was present at the incident, has participated in other Trump Trains and went to Washington D.C. on Jan. 6, 2021 where "he coordinated with others to bring collapsible batons and bear mace to allegedly protect others from Antifa and Black Lives Matter," according to court records. Cisneros also reportedly drove his truck into a Black Lives Matter protest in 2020; he was not charged.

Ahead of the Trump Train incident, Cisneros posted a photo of a gun which he called his "Antifa meat tenderizer," according to court records. He also texted Joeylynn Meseros, another defendant, asking her to make a t-shirt for him that says, "don't make me Rittenhouse your ass," referencing Kyle Rittenhouse, the Illinois man who fatally shot two men during a protest in Wisconsin. Rittenhouse was acquitted of multiple felony charges during his high-profile trial in which he argued he acted in self-defense.

The remaining defendants are Dolores Park and Joeylynn and Robert Meseros.

Video and photos show Park following the Biden bus, including a photo of herself in the "Trump Train" captioned "[t]here I go . . . escorting the Biden bus out of town."

Video footage also shows the Meseros' truck waiting on the shoulder of the highway for the bus and then "dangerously and abruptly cutting right in front of it," the original complaint states. The Meseros' said in their website that they refused to settle the case, spending more than \$500,000 on legal fees. They said they did nothing wrong but show their support for Trump while they drove alongside the Biden bus.

Pitman, the Obama-appointed federal judge overseeing the case, has denied multiple requests by the defendants to dismiss the lawsuit. Most recently, he denied a request to dismiss the lawsuit by some of the defendants who argued there is not enough evidence for a jury to convict.

In that ruling, he said there was ample evidence for a jury to convict the Trump supporters and he sided with Davis and the other plaintiffs' interpretation of the Klan Act, agreeing that it "establishes an independent substantive right to engage in support or advocacy in federal elections that extends beyond the act of voting."

Last year, two of the Trump supporters in the case petitioned the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to intervene and dismiss the case. While the court declined to do so, at least one judge suggested the plaintiffs' interpretation of the Klan act was overly broad.



### Choosing life when faced with an unplanned pregnancy

San Antonio Express-News, 19 Aug 2024, By Harriet Menchaca  
Harriet Menchaca is a wife, proud mother of four children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren. She is a retired registered nurse.

In reading the editorial “Texas lawmakers put pregnant women at risk,” July 31, I felt compelled to respond to several issues left unaddressed The Texas Heartbeat Bill, which bans abortions after detection of a fetal heartbeat, became effective Sept. 1, 2021. The law includes a provision allowing abortions in rare cases when the pregnancy endangers the mother’s life or poses a serious risk of substantial impairment to a major bodily function.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022, doctors have performed 101 abortions under the medical emergency exception, according to data from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Often left unsaid is that palliative care is available to support parents who have a baby with abnormalities. Pediatric palliative care is an interdisciplinary approach for children with life threatening or lifelimiting conditions to support their physical and emotional needs. This care is available in some local hospitals and home health agencies.

Texans need to know that our state government has funded — and has increased funding since the overturn of Roe — a number of supports for pregnant mothers and their families through the Alternatives to Abortion program, now known as Thriving Texas Families. This program provides services to assist mothers in carrying their babies to term, giving birth and either keeping or placing the baby for adoption for at least three years after birth.

In addition, the Texas Pregnancy Care Network, a nonprofit charitable organization, runs a website directing clients to 200 pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies across the state. These centers provide counseling, parenting classes, diapers, and referrals to other agencies as well. Agencies in San Antonio include A Women’s Haven, Allied Women’s Center, South Texas Pregnancy Care Center and Seton Home. And as the Alliance for Life outlined after the second anniversary of the overturn of Roe, “For uninsured pregnant women with incomes up to twice the federal level, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$2.35 billion for the states’ Medicaid program for prenatal, childbirth and fol low-up care for mothers and babies for 12 months.”

I realize there is no perfect system in providing all needs, but Texas has a clear and sturdy foundation of care on which to build to reduce maternal and infant mortality. I want people to know that protecting the life of the baby is being pro-woman, pro-child, and pro-family. I want them to know that there is help available in our state and local communities. I want to support and strengthen mothers and fathers and empower them to choose life when faced with an unexpected pregnancy. This is a real choice that everyone can live with.

### Woman Who Made Career Singing About Her Bad Choices Endorses Kamala

ENTERTAINMENT · Sep 11, 2024 · BabylonBee.com  
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Democrats screaming  
“Vote for Kamala  
because she is a woman”



Yet they can’t define  
what a woman is.

## An African Woman's Open Letter to Melinda Gates by Obianuju Ekeocha

Growing up in a remote town in Africa, I have always known that a new life is welcomed with much mirth and joy. In fact we have a special "clarion" call (or song) in our village reserved for births and another special one for marriages.

The first day of every baby's life is celebrated by the entire village with dancing (real dancing!) and clapping and singing - a sort of "Gloria in excelsis Deo."

All I can say with certainty is that we, as a society, LOVE and welcome babies.

With all the challenges and difficulties of Africa, people complain and lament their problems openly. I have grown up in this environment and I have heard women (just as much as men) complain about all sorts of things. But I have NEVER heard a woman complain about her baby (born or unborn).

Even with substandard medical care in most places, women are valiant in pregnancy. And once the baby arrives, they gracefully and heroically rise into the maternal mode.

I trained and worked for almost five years in a medical setting in Africa, yet I never heard of the clinical term "postpartum depression" until I came to live in Europe. I never heard it because I never experienced or witnessed it, even with the relatively high birth rate around me. (I would estimate that I had at least one family member or close friend give birth every single month. So I saw at least 12 babies born in my life every year.)

Amidst all our African afflictions and difficulties, amidst all the socioeconomic and political instabilities, our babies are always a firm symbol of hope, a promise of life, a reason to strive for the legacy of a bright future.

So a few weeks ago I stumbled upon the plan and promise of Melinda Gates to implant the seeds of her "legacy" in 69 of the poorest countries in the world (most of which are in Sub-Saharan Africa).

Her pledge is to collect pledges for almost \$5 billion in order to ensure that the African woman is less fertile, less encumbered and, yes, she says, more "liberated." With her incredible wealth she wants to replace the legacy of an African woman (which is her child) with the legacy of "child-free sex."

Many of the 69 targeted countries are Catholic countries with millions of Catholic women of child-bearing age. These Catholic women have been rightly taught by the Church that the contraceptive drug and device is inherently divisive.

Unlike what we see in the developed Western world, there is actually very high compliance with Pope Paul VI's "Humanae Vitae." For these African women, in all humility, have heard, understood and accepted the precious words of the prophetic pope. Funny how people with a much lower literacy level could clearly understand that which the average Vogue- and Cosmo-reading-high-class woman has refused to understand. I guess humility makes all the difference.

With most African women faithfully practicing and adhering to a faith (mainly Christian or in some cases Muslim), there is a high regard for sex in society, especially among the women. Sex is sacred and private.

The moment these huge amounts of contraceptive drugs and devices are injected into the roots of our society, they will undoubtedly start to erode and poison the moral sexual ethics that have been woven into our societal DNA by our faith, not unlike the erosion that befell the Western world after the 1930 Lambeth conference! In one fell swoop and one "clean" slice, the faithful could be severed from their professed faith.

Both the frontline healthcare worker dispensing Melinda's legacy gift and the women fettered and shackled by this gift, would be separated from their religious beliefs. They would be put in a precarious position to defy their faith - all for "safe sex."

Even at a glance, anyone could see that the unlimited and easy availability of contraceptives in Africa would surely increase infidelity and sexual promiscuity as sex is presented by this multi-billion dollar project as a casual pleasure sport that can indeed come with no strings - or babies - attached. Think of the exponential spread of HIV and other STDs as men and women with abundant access to contraceptives take up multiple, concurrent sex partners.

And of course there are bound to be inconsistencies and failures in the use of these drugs and devices, so health complications could result; one of which is unintended abortion. Add also other health risks such as cancer, blood clots, etc. Where Europe and America have their well-oiled health care system, a woman in Africa with a contraception-induced blood clot does not have access to 911 or an ambulance or a paramedic. No, she dies.

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And what about disposal of the medical waste? Despite advanced sewage disposal in the First-world countries, we hear that aquatic life there is still adversely affected by drugs in the system. In Africa, be rest assured that both in the biggest cities and smaller rural villages, sewage constitutes a real problem. So as \$4.6 billion worth of drugs, IUDs and condoms get used, they will need safe disposal. Can someone please show us how and where will that be? On our farm lands where we get all our food? In our streams and rivers from whence comes our drinking water?

I see this \$4.6 billion buying us misery. I see it buying us unfaithful husbands. I see it buying us streets devoid of the innocent chatter of children. I see it buying us disease and untimely death. I see it buying us a retirement without the tender loving care of our children.

Please Melinda, listen to the heart-felt cry of an African woman and mercifully channel your funds to pay for what we REALLY need.

We need:

**- Good healthcare systems (especially prenatal, neonatal and pediatric care).**

Needless to say that postpartum and neonatal deaths are alarmingly high in many Sub-Saharan African countries. This is due to the paucity of specialized medical personnel, equipment and systems. Women are not dying because they are having "too many" babies but because they are not getting even the most basic postpartum care. A childbirth or labor complication can very easily be fatal, for both mother and baby. To alleviate this problem new, well-equipped and well-staffed birthing centers with neonatal units need to be built in easily accessible parts of the poorest communities. And if Melinda Gates really insists on reducing population, she can have highly trained Natural Family Planning (NFP) instructors strategically placed in these women's healthcare facilities. At least then there would be a natural and holistic approach.

**- Food programs for young children.**

This would serve a two-fold purpose if it is incorporated into free or highly subsidized nursery school programs. It would nourish and strengthen the growth of these children, who are so, so vulnerable to malnutrition, and it would also serve to encourage parents to bring their youngsters, ages 3 or 4, to nursery school. In so many parts of Africa, children miss out on nursery school education because it is expensive and considered a luxury reserved for the rich and middle class. As a result, the children miss the first few crucial years when basic math and reading are easily learned. By the time they are considered "ready" for school, at age 7 or 8, they struggle academically. Many of them never quite catch up and so drop out after six or seven years. This is when a lot of young girls are married off as mid- to late-teenage wives who unfortunately would become the perfect recipient of the Melinda Gates comprehensive contraceptive care!

**- Good higher education opportunities**

Not just new school buildings or books, but carefully laid out educational programs that work - scholarships, internships at higher levels, etc. - are needed. Despite the problems and obstacles to primary and secondary education, a significant number of young girls make it into universities, polytechnics or colleges. The problem however is that, most of the schools and resources are substandard and outdated. As such, the quality of higher education is low and cannot compare to that of more privileged countries. Even though the teachers put in their very best and the students work hard, the system is inadequate and will always produce disadvantaged graduates who are not confident enough to stand with their counterparts who have studied in other parts of the world.

**- Chastity programs**

Such programs in secondary schools, universities and churches would create a solid support system to form, inform and reassure our young girls and women that real love is that which is healthy and holy. Many African girls are no longer sure about moral sexual ethics thanks to the widespread influence of Western media, movies and magazines. More support should be given to programs that encourage abstinence before marriage and fidelity in marriage. This approach would go a long way to combating the spread of HIV and other STDs through the continent. And it would certainly lead to happier marriages!

**- Support for micro-business opportunities for women**

The average African woman is incredibly happy, hard-working and resilient. Any support both economic and through training would most probably be used well and wisely.

**- Fortify already established NGOs** that are aimed at protecting women from sex-trafficking, prostitution, forced marriage, child labor, domestic violence, sex crimes, etc.

Many of these NGOs do not have much success because they are not well-funded. Though most of them have good intentions, they lack professional input from those such as psychologists, logisticians or medical personnel needed to tackle various problems.

\$4.6 billion dollars can indeed be your legacy to Africa and other poor parts of the world. But let it be a legacy that leads life, love, and laughter into the world in need.



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](http://www.rcocc.org)

\*Dues are paid annually by calendar year