



TRUNK TIMES

January 2026 ~ Issue No. 30 ~ Donna Russell, Designer/Editor

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.sarwclub.com

*Hello & Happy New Year SARW
Members, Associates & Friends!*

I want to express my gratitude to you all as we begin another year. Thank you for the work that you did to support conservative candidates and values. Your time and commitment to SARW, as well as the fun and friendship, are greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to another great year together.



Christine Nichol, SARW President

We begin this new year with grateful hearts knowing that our country has strong leaders and safe borders. However, conservative victories have generated unhinged progressive protest and united our political opponents. So, we must renew our commitment to support conservative candidates in the upcoming primary and midterm elections. These elections promise to be very interesting. There are crowded fields of outstanding candidates for statewide offices and congressional districts, and local judicial candidates that really need our support. We cannot be complacent. Not only must we vote but we must also encourage friends and neighbors to vote - and educate them if they are uncertain about candidates or issues! Our Campaign Chair, Karen Jones, will be sending information on the elections. Keep an eye out for her messages in your email-they will be informative and provide good information to share with others.

You may remember that we had Treniss Evans III slated to be our speaker for our October GM Luncheon but was unfortunately involved in an auto accident. He has now recovered and is looking forward to visiting with us as he provides his first-hand account of being at the Capitol on January 6th, 2021 (J6) and the consequences. His story is eye-opening and powerful, and I'm pretty sure it is a story you won't forget.

See you there, Christine

SARW 2026 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President
1st VP Programs
2nd VP Ways & Means
3rd VP Membership
Secretary
Treasurer General
Treasurer PAC
Immediate Past President

Christine Nichol / SARW.President@gmail.com
Annette Skalamenos / SARW.Programs@gmail.com
Dianna Lorenz / SARW.Waysandmeans@gmail.com
Sylvia Gartner / SARW.Membership@gmail.com
Lauretta Smith / lnsmith1948@att.net
Jackie Fisher / SARW.Treasurer@gmail.com
Sandy Bush / SARW.Treasurerpac@gmail.com
Diana Ridgway / ridgwaydiana@gmail.com

Appointed Officers and Board Members

Campaign Chair
Chaplain
Corresponding Secretary
Parliamentarian
Director of Social Media
Internal Reviewer
Karen Jones / kaj2642@sbcglobal.net
Elizabeth Nolan / elizabethnolan10.0@gmail.com
Sherrie Calhoun / sherrieocal@yahoo.com
Marty Carpenter / marty110@att.net
Donna Russell / sarwclub@yahoo.com
Marty Carpenter / marty110@att.net

Appointed Standing Committee Chairs

Awards
Bylaws
Caring for America
Decorations
Handbook
Hospitality
Jewelry
Judicial Liaison
Literacy
Photographer
Scholarship
Senior Americans
Telephone
Cynthia Smith
Cynthia Smith
Lily Wasluskas / lwasluskas1@link.net
Rosiebella Gastelum / rosiebellag11@gmail.com
Sandy Bush / SARW.Treasurer@gmail.com
Kathy Zurlo / kathleenzurlo@yahoo.com
Becky Perez & Yvonne Perez / Gvonne@gmail.com
Sylvia Lent / syllent@sbcglobal.net
Cynthia Smith / cynthia@cdsmithlaw.com
Marty Carpenter / marty110@att.net
Mary Louise York / marylouise402@gmail.com
Martha Robbins / marrobb@spectrum1.net
Brenda Dever-Armstrong / deverb@att.net
Sandra Murphy / smurphymit@yahoo.com
Linda Holland / linda_22333@satx.rr.com

Interested in Getting Involved?

We're always looking for passionate individuals to join our leadership team. If you're interested in any open positions, please reach out to the board directly.

New Chairs are especially welcome—we value fresh ideas, different experiences, and new energy to help shape the future of our organization.
Your voice matters, and we'd love to hear it.

WELCOME OUR 2026 SARW OFFICERS



President
Christine Nichol



1st VP Programs
Annette Skalamenos



2nd VP Ways & Means
Diana Lorenz



3rd VP Membership
Sylvia Gartner



Secretary
Lauretta Smith



Treasurer General
Jackie Fisher



Treasurer PAC
Sandy Bush



Donna Lent-Russell
SARW Social Media Director

We welcome your input in our monthly newsletter! Do you have photo's and/or articles you'd like to share with our members and associates? Please send directly to me at: sarwclub@yahoo.com

Deadline for Photo/Article submission is the 15th of each month.

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY ~ JANUARY 8, 2026

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Anne Marie's

12475 Starcrest, San Antonio, TX 78216

Special Guest Speakers



Treniss Evans

Treniss Evans, founder of Condemned USA
Defendant of his own prejudicial prosecution
from the Department of Justice following
the events of January 6th



Kelly Hancock

Acting Texas Comptroller
of Public Accounts
Kelly will be speaking about the
“State of Texas” economy

Luncheon Cost: \$40.00

RSVP by 12:00pm ~ January 6, 2026

**RSVP and purchase online at: www.sarwclub.com
or call/text 210.867-4412 to RSVP and pay at the door**



(Political advertisements are not an endorsement of San Antonio Republican Women (SARW), its President, or its Campaign Activities Chairman, only candidate information to help you make an informed decision and get involved with the candidate of your choice.)

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4	5	6	7	SARW Luncheon Anne Marie's 11am – 1pm \$40pp	8 TFRW Board of Directors Mtg. FT. Worth Hilton	9 TFRW Leadership Day FT. Worth Hilton
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Happy Birthday

*Rebecca Colorado
Beverly Birnbaum
Chuck Blair
Crystal Meyer*

*Howard Nichol
Donna Russell
Heather Tessmer*



SARW GM Luncheons

(2nd Thursday of each month)

Upcoming Speakers & Events

February thru May,

(Summer CHAT's for June & July)

then resume GM Luncheons

September through December.

February 12th

Rep. Mark Dorazio, House District 122

Mark will be speaking about his gold bill that has been signed by Gov. Abbott.

March 12th

**Ashley Foster, Republican Candidate (no Rep. opponent)
for Bexar County District Attorney**

Ashley will be discussing her plans for BCDA, should she win the election!



**April 4th – Special Event Date
(No GM luncheon for April)**

SARW's 3rd Annual Fiesta Ole'

Join us as we celebrate Fiesta San Antonio, SARW style! Every year this event just gets better and better – you won't want to miss this enjoyable, fun for all, kick off to the biggest party this side of the Pecos!

May 14th



John Guandolo, National Security & Counterterrorism Expert

John will be talking with us about the Muslim / Islamic influence in our current society.

The Golden Years

Raising the Bar for Senior Well-Being one article at a time

Articles by SARW Member Brenda Dever-Armstrong,
CEO/Owner/CSA/Geriatric Advisor/Lifetime Advocate, The Next Horizon.

“The Increasing Standards of Geriatric Care and Deducting the Cost of a Caregiver”

Today's facility needs to provide increased levels of both comfort and care. Here are six key criteria geriatric patients are using to measure hospitals and long-term care residence.

- 1) Quality of Care – This will Never change. Geriatric patients demand and expect top-notch care when they are in the hospital, rehab or Senior Living community. The Baby Boomers are demanding better care and doing their research on their condition and will ask questions to ensure they are receiving the best care from highly qualified personnel.
- 2) “Privacy” - I Want A Door. HIPPA laws have led to a construction boom as hospital administrators strive to make Waiting Rooms, Treatment Bays, Exam Rooms and other areas of hospitals HIPPA compliant. They do not want to Share a Room!
- 3) Room Comfort – Some hospitals are acting like hotels. More space for family to visit their loved one – some are like suites and provide additional luxuries. Requesting Unrestricted visiting hours, and on-site facilities for eating.
- 4) Food Quality – Healthy and Tasty Diet. Emotional health is connected to physical health and physical health connected to a healthy diet. Providing healthier foods and diet will make the patient happier and healthier – improve & go home faster.
- 5) Personnel with Professional and Caring Personalities. Patients rely heavily on facilities employees. When patients are ill or frightened, they need to feel confident they can depend upon staff to treat them correctly and with respect. Patients demand knowledgeable, efficient, comforting and – above all – pleasant staff.
- 6) A Calm and Clean Environment. Every administrator knows that the better a patient feels emotionally, the faster they will heal physically. The atmosphere of the facility is one of the “key” things patients look for when deciding on a healthcare facility. Geriatric patients want tranquil environments that are tastefully decorated, cheerful and clean.

While these are not the only standards used to select healthcare facilities they are some of the most important considerations. Facilities need to provide their patients in innovative ways, beyond their clinical needs, never forgetting that the quality of care and medical service is the Primary concern.



Cont'd.

Can Someone Deduct the Cost of a Caregiver?

With tax time upon us this is asked frequently. A parent has a personal caregiver who works for them full time in their home. The parent(s) pay the cost of approximately \$4,000 per month out of their own income.

Can they deduct the cost as a medical expense on their income tax?

Answer: YES, assuming they are “qualified long term care services.” To satisfy the IRS, one must have to verify primarily by a carefully written letter from her/his personal physician that: (a) she/he is chronically ill (b) the services are provided in accordance with the physician's plan of care, and © she/he are required care and supervision to protect them from threats to health and safety due, for example: to her/his diminished capacity or home modification medically such as: walk in showers, grab bars, ramps. A CPA will rely on Section 213 of the IRS Code in determining whether or not their care qualifies and modifications medically.

Note: Physicians do not think about tax deductions when they care for their patients. It is OK to tell them about this opportunity and about the need for an appropriate letter or written plan. Also, these expenses can only be itemized deductions if they exceed 7.5% of the patient(s) adjusted gross income.

*Remember to issue 1099s for each of the Caregivers and submit to the IRS at year end. Check with your CPA.

SARW 2025 Year In Review

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH

Mayoral Candidate Forum



APRIL



MAY



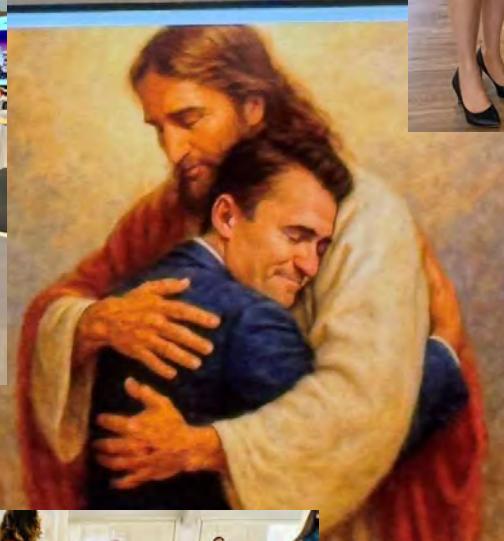
AUGUST



Midnight at the Masquerade
San Antonio Republican Women
August, 23, 2025



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



SARW Scholarship

San Antonio Republican Women
P.O. Box 700523, San Antonio, TX 78270
www.sarwclub.com

Fern Burke Scholarship

In May of each year, the San Antonio Republican Womens' club grants a \$1000 Fern Burke Scholarship to a high school senior.

The scholarship is named in honor of Fern Burke, Club President 1996-1998, in recognition of her outstanding involvement and passion for GOP principles and programs. SARW grants the scholarship based on grades, SAT/ACT scores, an essay submission, and involvement in any honors class participation, school award(s) received, school activities, school academic recommendations, character references, volunteer work and activities, and Republican Party activities.

The recipient is selected by the Scholarship Committee.

The application deadline is March 31, 2024. Please mail the completed application to:

SARW Scholarship Committee
4530 Western Pine Woods
San Antonio TX 78249

Thank you for your participation!

SARW Scholarship

San Antonio Republican Women
P.O. Box 700523 San Antonio TX, 78270
www.sarwclub.com

SARW FERN BURKE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Parents Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email:

High School: _____

Grades:

SAT/ACT SCORES:

Honors Class Participation:

School Awards Received:

School Activities: _____

One Page Essay: "Why I Love America" (please attach document)

Academic Recommendations: _____

Character References:

Volunteer Work: _____

Any Republican Party/Conservative Activities:

Do you consider yourself a Republican/Conservative?

Have you applied to any colleges/universities and/or been accepted? If so, to which?

For further information, contact the Office of the Vice-Chancellor (Research) on 02 9351 0800.

Signature of Applicant

Date

SARW Membership



RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Membership Levels Available:

Active Membership or Renewals \$40.00

Active members receive all privileges of membership and may be asked to assist with volunteer work and fundraising.

Associate Membership \$30.00

Associate membership is for women who are active members of another Republican club affiliated with the TFRW or men associated with the Republican Party.

Young Affiliate \$25.00

Young affiliate membership is for young women between the ages of thirteen and seventeen and may serve on committees.

You may join at one of our monthly meetings or go online (www.sarwclub.com) and process a membership form and payment or mail a check. If you mail a check, please make checks payable to: **San Antonio Republican Women.**

A membership form is available on the next page for your convenience.

Mail to:
San Antonio Republican Women
Treasurer
PO Box 700523
San Antonio, Texas 78270



San Antonio Republican Women

Date: _____

P.O. Box 700523, San Antonio, TX 78270

www.sarwclub.com

SARW Membership Form

Name: _____ Spouse (if applicable): _____
Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Address: _____

City: _____, TX Zip: _____ Birth date: _____
Month & Day _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email address: _____

SARW Newsletter will be sent via email, unless you do not have email. Special accommodations can be made, please ask.

Occupation _____ Employer _____
Required information for PAC reporting

or Retiree of _____

Senate District (SD) # _____ Congressional District (CD) # _____ Precinct # _____

Are you a Registered Voter? YES _____ NO _____

Membership: New or Renewal (circle one and then select one of the three membership types below)

_____**-Primary \$40** (a woman whose primary club is SARW — voting member)

_____**-Associate - \$30** (a woman whose primary club is another Republican Women's club, or any man)

What is your primary club? _____

_____**Young Affiliate - \$25** (a young woman aged 13 through 17)

_____**SARW Magnetic Name Tag - \$6.** Desired Name on Name Tag: _____

Referred by: _____

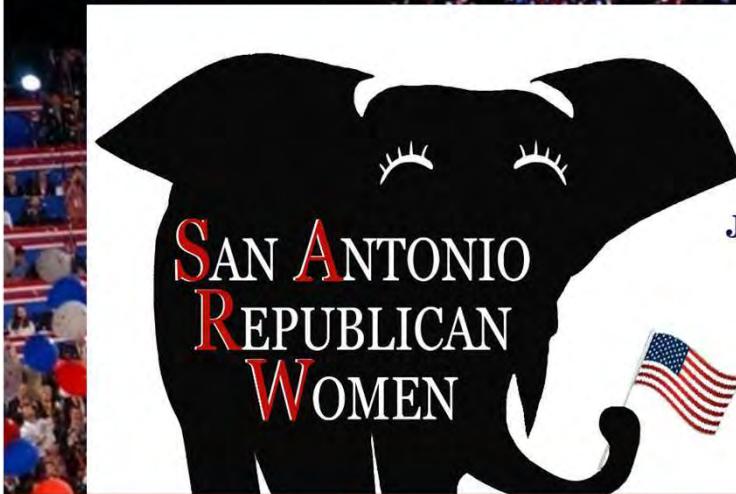
Please make checks payable to: SARW

Mail to: SARW, P.O. 700523, San Antonio, TX 78270-0523

For Information Contact: Sylvia Gartner, VP Membership (210)286-7609

SARW is a member of the Texas Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION UNDER SECTION 527 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEDERAL INCOME PURPOSES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
CORPORATIONS, LABOR UNIONS AND FOREIGN NATIONALS ARE PROHIBITED.



General Meetings

Every Second Thursday
of the month

January-May & September-December

at Anne Marie's
12475 Starcrest Dr.
SA, TX 78216
11:00am -1:00pm
(No meetings, June, July and August)
For more information email
sarwclub@yahoo.com

Contact Us / click here to send us an email

San Antonio Republican Women
PO Box 700523

Want to know the latest and greatest? Check out our website daily to learn of upcoming events for the current month or reach out to our editor for an article or photos you'd like to submit!

It is kept up-to-date with current information, including this new edition of the SARW Newsletter, "Trunk Times"! Find out who will be speaking at our next monthly meeting, read about the club's history and what we are about, as well as have the ability to log your volunteer hours directly through our website.

This website is about keeping our organization together and informed! We wish you the best and hope you enjoy your visit!

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE! REPUBLICAN vs DEMOCRAT

Small Business
Job Creation

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

Religious
Freedom

- ✓

School Choice

- ✓

Protecting the
Unborn

- ✓

Lower Taxes

- ✓

Border Security &
Fighting Crime
On The Border

National Platform Comparison