



# The Bugle

A TFRW Award-Winning Newsletter!

"LITE"

FEBRUARY 2017

TFRW Region IX ★ Senate District #25

Visit Us: Bar-W.org

## Bar-W's February Meeting Information

### Annual Chocolate Extravaganza Fundraiser

It's chocolate time! Bring your chocolate specialty to donate, some samples to share, and support Bar-W using cash, check, or credit card to take some chocolate home! But it's not *just* chocolate night. We have a great guest speaker--Rafael "Rafa" Bejar, Outreach Coordinator/Policy Advisor, Center for Education Freedom, Texas Public Policy Foundation. And we will review and vote on the 2017 Bar-W Budget.

Monday, Feb. 13, 6:30 PM, GVTC Auditorium

Bar-W Board Meeting Feb. 9th, 6:30 PM, BSB Library

All Members Welcome!



## Bar-W 2017 Meeting Dates

### General Meetings

- Monday, March 13
- Monday, April 10
- Wednesday, May 17
- Monday, June 12
- Saturday, July Social
- Monday, August 14
- Monday, September 11
- Monday, October 09
- Monday, November 13
- December Christmas Party--Date to be scheduled

### Board Meetings

- Thursday, March 02
- Thursday, April 06
- Thursday, May 04
- To be scheduled
- To be scheduled
- To be scheduled
- To be scheduled
- To be scheduled
- To be scheduled

All General Meetings at GVTC Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

## For Your Information

Please bear with us as we transition from the print newsletter to the interactive electronic version. We plan a Bugle "Lite" every month except quarterly when there will be a full edition. Thank you!

Gerí B. Ray, President

## Missed the Last Meeting?

Publicity Chair Sally J. Driscoll's excellent recap and Dale Wilken's great pictures will give you a hint of what we enjoyed. (It was fun!) If you were there, look for your photo! see pages 3-4)

## Chaplain's Blog

Mary Dockery



This year we will walk through the marvelous links of God and Country, and explore the reasons we have the freedoms we often take for granted. I hope you will join me in our adventure. This month's feature: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of ANY religion, nor prohibiting the FREE exercise thereof."

Why? - see page 2

## Save the Date

TFRW Legislation Day April 6th [www.tfrw.org](http://www.tfrw.org)

## Bar-W is "In"!

"In" to social media, that is! Follow us on Instagram: [barwtx](https://www.instagram.com/barwtx)

Twitter: [@BarWTx](https://twitter.com/BarWTx)

& [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BarWTx)





## Chaplain's Blog

Mary Dockery  
Bar-W Chaplain



This year we will walk through the marvelous links of God and Country, and explore the reasons we have the freedoms we often take for granted. I hope you will join me in our adventure.

*"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of a religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Separation of church (from the) state..." Worth the risk of "Our lives, our fortunes and our Sacred Honor..."*

### Why?

The English monarchy banned all the people of England from reading the Bible, and the "state" church burned at the stake anyone found owning a Bible. Living within the radius of the state "church," you were an automatic member from birth to death, and you tithed or were billed accordingly. The "only" church was taxpayer supported. But a change was rising, and noticed by the government.

Queen Elizabeth (1592) directed Parliament to pass a law that made it treason (punishable by death) to worship, even in homes, or in any way other than through forced attendance in the "state church." Why? Was the crown that "holy" and determined to keep the faith unsullied by "ignorant masses"? Or could it have been the money and control?

**TRUTH and FREEDOM** began to cry out as the newly published **Geneva Bible** was suddenly available in the 1560's at grassroots levels. Reform had come to the British Isles. New Believers seeking purity in the church, and petitioning to end rampant graft, corruption, dead rituals, they were called Puritans or Separatists. Criminals all.

Bands of "outlaw" believers now wanted to study the Bible for themselves and worship and pray in freedom. Hiding in homes, gathering to pray, study the Bible, rotating times and houses, groups gathered knowing their lives and possessions all at risk.

This could not be allowed! No more "tithes and taxes" flowing to the "church" and crown, a price too high, too dangerous to allow to take hold. A population out of the iron grasp of government control. This was the story the Pilgrims fought to defeat, and died to change. Love for God and one another was more important, with the mercies of God and His plan for us all, they grew, and a new nation began because of them.

This was the foundational truth the Founders made law, the First Amendment to our Constitution. Our freedoms, our Constitution; worth defending today with:

***"Our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."***



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At the Bar-W general meeting on January 9th, the new Bar-W Board was installed and four Comal County elected officials, all women, told the tales of the journey to their current professional positions. As each of them spoke, they were surprised to find that they had something in common beyond their public service. But first the Bar-W members enjoyed the red, white and blue birthday cake to celebrate Bar-W's fourteenth birthday.

The meeting was opened for the last time by Kaci Sisk, now the Immediate Past President. One of our youngest Republicans in attendance led us in the Pledges of Allegiance to the United States and to Texas. Ms. Sisk thanked Hazel Roman for founding the club and said that Bar-W is now one of the fastest growing Texas Republican organizations in its category. She then introduced the evening's speakers: Comal County Criminal District Attorney Jennifer Tharp, Comal County District Clerk Heather Keller, Comal County Clerk Bobbie Koepp and Comal County Tax Assessor-Collector Cathy Talcott.

Ms. Tharp administered the oath of office to the new Bar-W Board members, each accompanied by a companion whom they had chosen to hold the Bible. They took their places at the front of the room as Ms. Sisk pinned the badge of office on new President Geri Ray and handed over the official Bar-W gavel. Ms. Ray thanked Judy Millspaugh for coming up with the idea of inviting local elected women officials. She explained that District Clerk Heather Keller was filling in for County Commissioner Jen Crossover, who couldn't be there.

Each speaker gave a brief account of how she happened to get her job. County Clerk Bobbie Koepp spent more than 35 years in public service before running for election. Though District Attorney Tharp was the first lawyer sworn in by then-Attorney General Greg Abbott, she started at the bottom (she practiced in traffic court) before throwing her hat in the ring. District Clerk Keller, with a background in human resources, had no experience with courts or the law at all, but was appointed clerk before ever standing for election. County Clerk Koepp had 36 years in city government and was



ready to walk away when she was asked to run. Finally, Tax Collector-Assessor Talcott told us how she was once an opera singer in Houston, then (and still) a business owner, and is now personally responsible for all the money that comes through the tax office, which collected \$7 million just the other day.

Each of these women had a natural hesitation about taking on such a demanding job and a natural doubt about whether she could perform her vital work well enough. Beyond that, each also had compelling reasons why she shouldn't stretch herself beyond her current circumstances, such as

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having young children or a husband who must travel for work despite poor health, finding she's the only woman in the job out of all the counties in Texas, and having no experience with the duties of the job and no “in-charge” experience ever. Yet each had a mentor to help her, someone who recognized her ability when she herself did not, and who urged her to get out of her comfort zone—to step up and do more than she thought she could do—to take on a bold challenge beyond what she had ever considered, and to succeed.

Altogether the evening of Bar-W's birthday marked a bold challenge for us all, not only for the new Board members and President Geri Ray, but for our nation as we look forward to a new administration in Washington. Of course there are doubts but, as Cathy Talcott said, “If you choose to take that step, you never know what's in front of you. But if you don't do it, you'll never know what you could have done.”

