



# Village Republican Women

April 2011

Newsletter



[www.VillageRepublicanWomen.org](http://www.VillageRepublicanWomen.org)

## Executive Board

### President

Beverly Roberts

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Ellie Essalih

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Nolia Rohde

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Jennifer Naedler

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Maldry Breaux

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### Treasurer

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### Newsletter

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Clara Boyce

### Webmaster

Chris Cobb

### Americanism

Joan Akin

### Historian

Sally Brashear/Janice Roberts

### Past President

Carol Prince

## PROGRAM

### Houston Racquet Club

10709 Memorial Drive

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

9:30 Check-in and Coffee

10:00 Meeting

- ◆ Lunch is \$20.00 (Cash required) ◆
- ◆ RSVP required by Noon Friday, April 22. ◆
- No-shows will be billed*

[Click Here to RSVP on the website](#)

Nolia Rohde: [hospitality@villagerepublicanwomen.org](mailto:hospitality@villagerepublicanwomen.org)

713-264-1668 cell

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**Robert Bradley**

**CEO of Institute for Energy Research**

Robert L. Bradley Jr. is the CEO and founder of the Institute for Energy Research. As one of the nation's leading experts on the history and regulation of energy markets, he has testified before the U.S. Congress and the California Energy Commission, as well as lectured at numerous colleges, universities, and think tanks around the country. Bradley's views are frequently cited in the media, and his reviews and editorials have been published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and other national publications.

Bradley is a visiting fellow at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London, an honorary research fellow at the Center for Energy Economics at the University of Texas at Austin, and an adjunct scholar at both the Cato Institute and the Competitive Enterprise Institute. He is a member of the academic review committee at the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University.

## *President's Message.....*

By the time you read this newsletter our fabulous fundraiser "Cheers to Fifty Years" will have taken place. Kudos to our professional Ways and Means Chair Jennifer Naedler and her accomplished committee comprising Merle Carlson, Iris Horton, Pam Powers, Leslie Dickey and Ellie Essalih, for planning and implementing the event. A more detailed report will be in the May newsletter.

Of course we will not sit back and bask in the glow of past accomplishments. We are preparing another legislative action item, working on a candidates' forum and considering opening a campaign office with other area clubs. I hope to have another great summer event since our 2010 "Summer Safari" was such a huge hit.

Unfortunately, the Photo Voter ID bill is stuck in conference committee where the two versions of the bill are being reconciled. Please call or email your state representative and senator to encourage them to finish with this important matter so that Governor Perry can sign it. We have waited far too long to lose the battle now. Please go to <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/> and look at the right side of the page where you will find a form to complete which provides a link to your own elected officials. We must hold them accountable to do the job we elected them to do.

This summer you will receive information about the TFRW Convention in Fort Worth, November 18-20, 2011. As one of the state's larger Clubs we will be allowed ten to twelve delegates and as many alternates, depending on our final number of voting members. Please consider representing Village at this important gathering.

In May we will elect the nominating committee which will begin inviting our members to serve on our governing Board. I hope many of you will help the Club, either on the nominating committee or the governing Board (or both). With strong leadership we can move with energy and vision into our next fifty years.

*Best regards, Beverly Roberts*

### **Important dates:**

April 27	VRW General Meeting, Houston Racquet Club
May 25	VRW General Meeting, Houston Racquet Club
May 31	Texas Legislature adjourns

**For more information about our Club, please call 832-443-8109 or visit  
[www.villagerepublicanwomen.org](http://www.villagerepublicanwomen.org)**

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY VILLAGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN PAC FUND



Monday, November 8 was the first day for legislators to pre-file bills to be considered during the upcoming 82nd Legislature, which opens on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

The Texas legislature meets for 140 days in odd-numbered years. The 150-member House of Representatives elects its Speaker (currently Joe Straus R-San Antonio). The 31-member Senate's leader is Lieutenant David Dewhurst.

Bills are filed in numerical order, though there are a few bill numbers reserved by House and Senate leadership for attaching to major legislation. If the bill is filed in the House, it bears an "HB" designation, followed by numerical order in which the bill was filed. Same in the Senate, except "HB" is changed to "SB" for "Senate Bill." Just because a bill has a lower number does NOT mean it has a better chance of passage.

After January 11, 2011, once a bill is filed, it is read into the record and then referred to a committee. The Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor decide which bills get referred to which committees. The bill is designated as "referred to committee" once it is referred. After the bill filing deadline in March, there are no more committee referrals.

Bills start to be set for public hearing in February, and usually are heard on their first hearing date. Just because a hearing date is re-scheduled or postponed, do not assume the bill is dead, because it probably is not. All legislation must have a public hearing.

When the sponsor of the legislation appears at the public hearing before the committee the Representative or Senator gives the committee background on why the bill is necessary, what problems it is trying to fix, and the mechanisms in the bill that will provide that fix. This is called "laying out the bill."

A majority vote of a quorum of the committee present at the public hearing is required to pass the bill out of committee. If a committee has 9 members and a quorum is 5 members, then an affirmative vote of 3 members will move the bill to the next step in the process.

There are a number of legislative steps that a bill goes through before the bill can get to the floor of either chamber so that it can be voted on. House bills must be considered and passed by the full House, so 76 Representatives must vote "aye" for the bill to pass. Senate bills the same, so 16 Senators must agree for a Senate bill to pass.

Our Texas Constitution requires that a bill be read **THREE** times in each chamber before it can be law. The first reading is when the bill is introduced and read into the record. The second reading is the first time the bill has escaped committee and then has gotten a majority vote of the chamber. The third reading is final passage, at which point the bill goes to the opposite chamber (House bills go to the Senate and vice versa), and the process starts **ALL OVER AGAIN!**

If a bill escapes from the second passage, it goes **BACK** to the originating chamber. If no amendments were made in the second chamber, the bill is "enrolled," meaning it is prepared for signing by the governor. If there were amendments made in the second chamber, the originating chamber must agree with all of the amendments before the bill may be enrolled. If the originating chamber disagrees with any of the amendments, the bill is sent to a conference committee of both chambers, which seeks to resolve the differences. If the conference

committee cannot come to terms, the bill is killed. The report of the conference committee must be accepted or rejected by both chambers; if the report is rejected, the bill may go back for reconsideration by the committee or a new committee may be appointed. Once a committee report is approved by the Legislature, the bill is enrolled.

The governor has ten days to sign or veto the legislation, or it becomes law without the governor's signature (if sent to the governor within ten days of final adjournment, the governor must sign, veto, or let it become law without signature within 20 days). Bills vetoed while the legislature is still in session are returned to their originating chambers with an explanation of the governor's objections to the bill. 2/3 of the members of BOTH houses must vote to override the governor's veto.

Usually, bills go into effect 91 days after the closing of the Legislature, unless 2/3 of the members of both houses agree to a different date.

To stay current on bills that interest you go to <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/billlookup/billnumber.aspx> . An informed and involved electorate is our best way to ensure we retain the freedoms for which many have fought and died.