



Parker County Republican Women



**President
Rena Peden**

President's Message...

Please **note** that we will be meeting at **David Beards at 1900 Santa Fe**, across from Petro for our March 13 meeting. Once again thanks to Minnie Garner for her hard work in securing a meeting place this month. Jorge, while indicating he would be ready for us, was not. You will be asked to select a luncheon choice as you check in on Thursday, and it will be delivered to you at your table. So that we do not have this issue in the future, we will be meeting at the **Doss Heritage Center for the rest of 2008.**

As you know, this is our membership meeting. Our long-time friend, **Senator Jane Nelson**, will be our speaker. She is dynamic, full of energy and always fun to listen to. Hope everyone plans to bring a friend. The PCRW Board will be calling all members but feel free to invite some old friends that we have

not seen in awhile.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the election. Those who held precinct conventions may have had a tough task at hand. It was standing room only as democrats and republicans tried to share space and shouting rights in their respective corners. For those of you who attended your conventions you may have noticed there were at least three to four times as many democrats. It was quite interesting. Hopefully, the Dems will change their process before the next election as Texas democrats received a lot of negative press at the national level. The County Convention will be held on March 29 at the Weatherford 9th Grade Center – the old high school. Let us know if you plan to attend and if you are interested in attending the State Convention in Houston.

The Board met to make final plans for the fundraiser. Please mark your calendar for May 30 at 6:30. It will be held at the Doss Heritage Center and will host one of the best political speakers I have heard in a very long time. He is Dr. Timothy Roth, University of Texas, El Paso; Department Chair, Economics and Finance Department. More details on the fundraiser will be available as the detailed planning is accomplished, and we will share that with you. We will also put something on our website. We hope some of you will have time to help as there is much to be



2008 Calendar of Events:

- ★ **Jan 10 - Regular PCRW meeting, Representative Phil King.** ★
- ★ **Feb 14 - Regular PCRW meeting, State Rep. Candidate Joe Tison** ★
- ★ **Feb 19 - Candidates and the public are invited to a meet and greet to get to know the candidates from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Springtown Senior Center, at Highway 51 and Old Cottondale Road.** ★
- ★ **Mar 13- Regular PCRW membership meeting, Senator Jane Nelson.** ★
- ★ **April 10 - Regular PCRW meeting, Bill McCulloch, US Army Reserve Ambassador for Texas.** ★
- ★ **May 8 - Regular PCRW meeting.** ★
- ★ **May 30 - PCRW Fundraiser, Doss Heritage Center at 6:30 p.m., Speaker: Dr. Timothy Roth, University of Texas, El Paso.** ★
- ★ **June 12 - Summer break. No meeting.** ★
- ★ **July 10 - Summer break. No meeting** ★
- ★ **Aug 14 - Resume regular PCRW membership meeting.** ★



done. Carrol Hamilton, Finance is coordinating the effort so please call her if you can volunteer some time.



"MVP of the Texas Senate"

Team: Senate District 12 (Tarrant/Denton counties); Republican

Bio: Senator Nelson was a sixth grade teacher in Tarrant County public schools, a Community Education teacher in Lewisville, American Cancer Society and Civic Volunteer, received PTA's Lifetime Membership Award, and raised five children (Brian, Elizabeth, Christina, Michelle and Jennifer) with her husband, J. Michael Nelson. She served two terms on the State Board of Education, leading the fight to correct more than 5,000 errors in school textbooks, before being elected to the Senate.

Positions: Chairman, Health & Human Services Committee; Member, Senate Committees on Finance, Government Organization, and Nominations; Texas Legislative Council

Priorities: Jane believes in limited government that focuses on the basics -- a first-rate transportation system, high performing schools, security in our homes and along the border, and, most importantly, strong, healthy families.

Recent Stats: In the 2007 session she championed legislation reforming Medicaid, expanding cancer research, returning PE to our schools, ensuring the safety of foster children, reducing hospital infections, safeguarding children from Internet predators, curbing domestic violence, insisting on truth-in-tolling; and protecting the elderly.

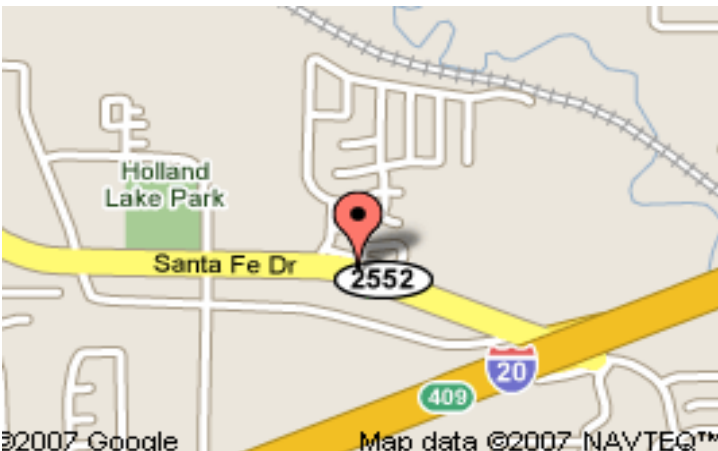
Senator Jane Nelson

Notable: Senator Nelson defeated two challengers in 2006, earning the highest winning percentage of any other contested incumbent in the Texas Senate. She had the highest winning percentage of any contested candidate on the ballot in her home county of Denton.

Personal: Senator Nelson enjoys spending time with family, especially her grandson, Andrew. She likes to travel, read and fish. She loves NASCAR and was recently named NASCAR Mom of the Year. A graduate of UNT, Jane and her husband run a precision aircraft component manufacturing company.

Meeting Place for March 13 Only!!!

David Beard's Catfish & Seafood
 1900 Santa Fe Drive
 Weatherford, TX 76086
 (817) 594-4059



Did you know...

Texas is the only state to enter the United States by treaty instead of territorial annexation.

Texas' largest county is Brewster with 6,208 square miles.

Laredo is the world's largest inland port.

More species of bats live in Texas than in any other part of the United States.

Texas boasts the nation's largest herd of whitetail deer.



****Member Spotlight for March****

MerryLynn Gerstenschlager

MerryLynn and her husband Val, a retired pilot, have been married for 39 years and have resided in Weatherford, Texas for 24 years. Their son Burke, a graduate of the Uni. of Texas and Yale Divinity School, is the Biblical Studies Acquisition Editor for a publisher in NY City. Their daughter Heidi, a graduate of Texas Tech Uni. and Covenant School of Nursing, is an Oncology Nurse in Lubbock.

MerryLynn' Republican activities are numerous: She is a longtime member of Parker County Republican Women; serves as a Precinct Chairman; and has worked elections as a Judge, Alternate Judge, and Clerk. She was an Alternate Delegate at Large to the 1998 State Convention; a Delegate to the 2000, 2002, and 2004 State Conventions; an Alternate Delegate to the 2006 State Convention; and an Alternate Delegate to the 2004 National Convention. She has testified before the State Platform Committee several times.



She was a recipient of Texas Federation of Republican Women's *Tribute to Women Award* in 2006, National Eagle Forum's *Eagle Award* in 1996, and Texas Eagle Forum's *Soaring Eagle Award* in 2001.

In 1993, upon discovering radical education reforms in local schools, she wrote a newsletter; held public viewings of videos on education restructuring; and hosted a phonics reading seminar and guest speakers on issues such as Outcome-Based Education, GOALS 2000, and the Aim for Success Sexual Abstinence Program. Since then, this program has been brought to several local classrooms and churches.

During the past six Regular Legislative Sessions, MerryLynn has moved to Austin in order to lobby daily as the full-time volunteer Education Liaison for Texas Eagle Forum. MerryLynn has testified before over 20 Senate and House legislative committees in Austin...many, on multiple occasions.

She has testified before the State Board of Education, the Texas Education Agency, the Weatherford Independent School District (WISD) Board of Trustees, and WISD Textbook Review Committees. She has trained and engaged citizens in reviewing and testifying on Biology, Health, and Social Studies textbooks prior to their adoption by the State Board of Education. In 2002, she was appointed by the Texas Education Agency to serve on the TAKS Grades 5-6 Reading Standards -setting Advisory Panel.

MerryLynn has been interviewed on radio and television. She appeared in the 2004 HD Net Television World Report documentary, *Texas: ABC's and Abstinence, The Texas Textbook Debate*.

MerryLynn has been an official observer at 14 United Nations conferences. These include the Housing Summits in New York City and Istanbul; six Climate Change meetings in Kyoto, Bonn (2), Buenos Aires (2), and The Hague; the International Criminal Court in Rome; the World Food Summit in Rome; the Conference for Financing for Economic Development in Monterrey; the Millennium Summit in NYC; and the Sixth World Trade Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong. She is often invited to present first-hand accounts about the UN's threat to America's sovereignty.

In 1996, MerryLynn was among the pro-life activists invited by Pope John Paul II to the Vatican. During a private audience, he thanked them for defending the sanctity of human life at UN conferences.

In 2004, MerryLynn completed the Summer Course on the International Criminal Court, held at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland in Galway.

MerryLynn is a frequent guest speaker on the topics of Education Reform and the United Nations.

*Parker County
Republican Women*





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Happy

St. Patrick's

Day!



Bistro Republic

Chicken & Wild Rice Soup



- ½ chicken
- Add salt & white pepper to chicken to taste
- Add ½ tbsp garlic and sprinkle on chicken (add amount of water used to make chicken soup)
- ½ medium white onion
- Boil until done
- Remove chicken from broth
- Add the water amount needed to cook ¾ cup wild rice (you can substitute 2 cans (10 ¾ oz.) chicken broth and not use the bouillon cubes below)
- De-bone chicken and set aside
- Chop chicken into small cubes
- Bouillon cubes to taste (approximately 2) or 2 cans (10 ¾ oz.) chicken broth
- Small packet sliced mushrooms and cut crosswise (matchsticks)
- 6 slices Bacon (cut crosswise after frying)
- ½ small bag match stick carrots for stir fry
- ¾ cup long grain wild rice (follow the cooking instructions)
- ½ medium white onion (chopped for sautéing)
- 1 stick of celery from stalk (chopped for sautéing)

In Dutch Oven

- 1/2 stick of butter
- Sautee celery and mushrooms
- ½ tbsp onion powder
- ½ tbsp poultry seasoning
- On medium heat, sauté veggies until tender and incorporate 1 tablespoon or more flour to thicken to your desired consistency.
- Add the chicken broth 2 cups at a time into the sautéed mixture until all chicken broth has been added.
- Add ½ cup - half & half milk
- Bring to a boil, add wild rice, bacon, carrots, chicken.
- Reduce heat to low and simmer for 45 minutes. Be sure to stir periodically to avoid scorching.





Parker County Republican Women



204 Covered Bridge Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76020

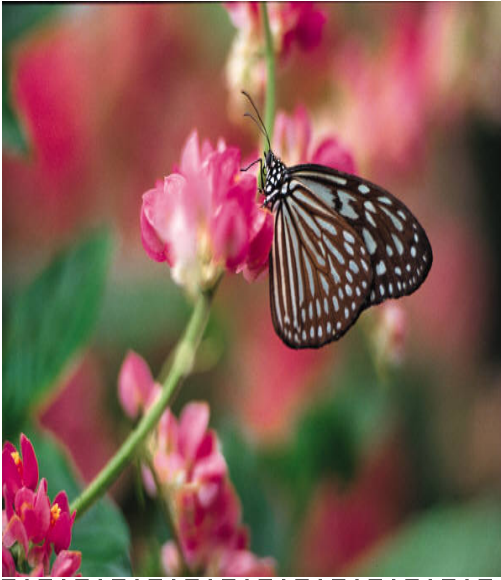
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Parker County Republican Women is a vibrant group, an award winning federated club organized in 1962. Realizing that the strength of any political force ultimately is dependent upon grassroots activism, we seek to educate and empower volunteers to champion Republican candidates at every level of government.

Members are actively involved as precinct chairmen, voter registrars, campaign staff personnel and fundraisers. We have members who have been elected to positions in local and state government as well as those who serve as staff members for officials at local, state and national levels.

Parker County Republican Women promote community programs, educational projects, and young Republican groups. We enthusiastically support our troops in a variety of ways, assist local charities and contribute financially to local candidates.

*If you are interested in advancing the Republican Philosophy, we welcome your involvement. For more information, please contact :
Rena Peden, President of Parker County Republican Women at
(817) 448-9969, rena.peden@juno.com*



[www.parkercorepublicanwomen.org]

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