

FRW 25 January 2018 Minutes
Friendswood Chamber

1. Call to order 12:42p.m.
2. Cell phones please take calls outside
 - a. Invocation – Kim Bonnen and Pledges Ginger Buckaloo
3. Introductions – Guests (please join! – Lisa Hahn, Pam Marchitti, Donnie and Cliff Padgell, Dr. Charles and Shirley Incerta, Chara McMichael, Christy Kortokray, Chris Jorgensen, Arlene Taylor, Mary Helen Slone. **Elected Officials** Jack Roady, Billy Enochs, Mary Helen Slone, Jackie King for Senator Larry Taylor, Katie Boatman, Brenda Weber (and Chara and Christy of the Washington staff!) for Congressman Randy Weber, Roxanne Lewis for Galveston County Judge Mark Henry, Leslie Bruemmer for State Rep. HD-23 Wayne Faircloth, Buck Stevens and **candidates** Jack Roady, Billy Enochs, Mary Helen Slone, Jackie King for Senator Larry Taylor, Katie Boatman, Brenda Weber (and Chara and Christy of the Washington staff!) for Congressman Randy Weber, Roxanne Lewis for Galveston County Judge Mark Henry, Leslie Bruemmer for State Rep. HD-23 Wayne Faircloth, Omar Peck, Scott Siscoe, Michelle Fraga, David Tang, Jim Bulgier, Billy Enochs, Donny Quintanilla, Kerri Foley, Dr. Matt Robinson, Ginger Buckaloo for Precinct 457, Janis Lowe for Precinct 462, Kathy Rogers for Precinct 456, and Deborah Winters Chaney for Precinct 460.
Thanks to Congressman Randy Weber for furnishing the desserts today!
4. Speaker – Dr. Greg Bonnen
 - a. Intro – Dr. Bonnen is a practicing physician, small businessman, and longtime resident of Galveston County. He was elected to the Texas House in November 2012. He is an Aggie, supports Texas Lion's camp (where he met his beloved wife Kim and decided to be a doctor). He has worked for many charitable medical groups travelling far and wide often with his wife and daughters Lindsey and Janae. He founded Houston Physician's Hospital with partners and began treating patients there in 2005.
 - b. It feels like the last session was years ago, after what our community has gone through. Even with all the candidates, we have more similarities with each other than with the Democrats. He serves on Appropriations and Energy Resources. As a doctor, he is often consulted for medical questions. Here are some of the highlights
 - i. Banning sanctuary cities – Class A Misdemeanor (whereas California is a sanctuary state)
 - ii. Clawbacks – When you pay with a credit card you paid much more, with insurance than cash payers. Dr. Bonnen sponsored legislation to put an end to that. There is a lot of consolidations going on and this is bad for competition. He is working to try to put a stop to that
 - iii. Step Therapy – for any type of a chronic illness, is a process where an insurer establishes a protocol and you have to go through it, even if your physician has you on an effective drug. You are forced to fail on other therapies before you can go to your successful therapy. If your physician submits a request to eliminate the protocol, you can now get an expedited decision.
 - iv. Economic Development – League City and Kemah can now use money that would have gone to the State to develop Convention and Events Center facilities. There may be an announcement by League City by this summer. This may be the biggest thing to happen in League City, ever. Senator Larry Taylor was also very active in getting this legislation across the finish line.
 - v. Lot of pro-life issues, which is one of Dr. Bonnen's major areas of focus. I Texas we've defunded Planned Parenthood. Alternatives to Abortion – to support our pregnancy centers to be compensated for the medical services by the State. AnchorPoint in League City is doing a lot to help people after children are born and helping place babies for adoption. They also bring the men into the picture and mentor them.
 - vi. Senator Taylor's Insurance bill was finally passed with Senator Creighton at the helm – It addressed the concern that you were being forced to pay insurance for abortion services, whether you needed it or not.
 - vii. End of life pro-life bill – A physician can't write a DNR order without your consent. Dr. Bonnen stated this bill died half a dozen times before it passed.
 - viii. Tort Reform – If you want to sue your Insurance Company, you have to tell them they owe you money, tell them how much, and wait 60 days before you can sue them. Previously some unscrupulous attorneys were filing claims against insurance companies where the client hadn't even filed a claim. This does not affect our ability to collect and does not affect TWIA.
 - c. Thank you to Congressman Weber for Tax Reform on the Federal Level. Do not believe the fake news. You WILL be paying lower taxes and have more money in your pocket. This will give Republicans momentum going into the general elections in November.
 - d. We MUST support all our Republican candidates in November
 - e. Kudos to Bonnie Siscoe for teaching his youngest daughter, Janae, who has gone on to dance professionally.
 - f. Questions – Appraisal Districts and Property Taxes – Property tax reform was hotly debated. The rollback rate was discussed. Currently it is 8%. The Senate wanted to lower it to 4% and the House wanted 6%.

Over that difference, the legislation died. Above the petition rate, an election is needed. Two key issues were a requirement to list all the entities you were paying taxes to including the effective rate and proposed rate and what value they were taxing you on, as well as the time and location of the next meeting of the taxing entities. This was an effort to get transparency sponsored by Dr. Bonnen's brother Dennis. The appraisal board people are appointed. There is a move to get those officials ELECTED. This would hold them accountable. This has been proposed by the Governor and won't be voted on until 2019. The issue is revenue. If the value goes up, the rate should go down. This ties back to public education. If we are going to provide meaningful relief, the State has to do more for education. Be careful of the Special Purpose Snapshot of the Texas budget. Medicaid is up 10% and public education is down 10%. Everything else is the same. Be careful of the Special Purpose Districts

- g. Question – Speakers Race – it is wide open, and kind of like fantasy football. They need to work with everyone. Is there a way to get the Republicans to actually select the Speaker? The Republican Caucus by-laws have been amended to select a Speaker candidate from the Caucus. It's almost like choosing a Pope. He didn't want to get into names at this time. This is an ever-changing field. Everyone is focused on the Primary.

5. Business

- a. Secretary's Report – (Kathy) October minutes Motion Janice/Lesley to accept as sent. VOCU.
- b. Treasurer's Report – Janis has them on the tables. You can always check us out at TEC.
- c. Motion to approve \$200 for the TFRW SD-11 Republican Women's Club Rally. See Flyers. FREE. Motion Deborah/Janis. VOCU
- d. Motion to approve \$150 for a City Council Candidates' forum. Motion Linda R/Janis VOCU.
- e. Candidates' Forum – FRW will host a City Council candidates' forum April 17.
- f. Drawing for raffle tickets donated by J. Lowe Realtors

6. Other announcements

- a. Our next meeting is Thursday February 22. Precinct Conventions and how you can get involved at the Grassroots level, what Precinct Chairs do, "How to" for the State Convention in San Antonio. Featuring Precinct Chair 460 Janis Lowe, 462 – Deborah Winters Chaney, and 456 Kathy Rogers.
- b. CCRW on Friday, Feb, 3 in League City at LaBrisa Mexican Grille on Wesley Drive.
- c. Republican Network scheduled a forum for February 13th, the third Thursday for County Judge, Party Chairman and DA
- d. Lots of campaign events. Meet your candidates!
- e. List forums like BARW and GRW
- f. To find out the latest, check out our Facebook page **Friendswood Republican Women** and the website www.FriendswoodRW.org