

# VILLAGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

monthly newsletter

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JANUARY 2020

## Top stories in this newsletter



January Meeting



1/22/20 Program



President's Letter



Legislative Update

## January Meeting Notice



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020  
Houston Racquet Club, 10709 Memorial Drive  
11:00 AM Registration  
11:30 AM Program and Lunch  
Lunch \$30.00

NOTE: There is no longer a "no-eat" option

Please [R.S.V.P.](#) by Friday, January 17th, before 12:00 (noon).  
Cancellations after January 17th will be billed.  
Kindly notify us of dietary restrictions when you R.S.V.P.

## PROGRAMS

### Bring in the New Year with Republican Ringer— Steve Munisteri



Join Village Republican Women on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, for our first meeting of the new year, and gear up for 2020. Favorite local son and 47-year veteran of Texas politics, Steve Munisteri, will bring us good cheer and strategy as we gear up for what very well may be the political year of our lifetime.

Well-prepared to stand firm against Socialism and the far-left Democrats, among other things, Munisteri is the founding Chairman of the Young Conservatives of Texas, former state Chairman of Texas Young American for Freedom and former state Chairman of Young Texans for Reagan. He has been active in the party as a precinct Chairman of two different precincts, as well as a former member of the SREC. He has worked in over 70 political campaigns including 13 presidential campaigns. His notable roles in the recent past include Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, former Senior Adviser to Senator Rand Paul, former Senior Adviser to Chairman Reince Priebus, former Deputy Assistant to President Donald Trump and Principal Deputy Director of the Office of Public Liaison in the Trump Administration.

Now in his current role as Senior Advisor to Senator Cornyn's re-election campaign and Senior Advisor to Republican Party of Texas Volunteer Engagement Project, Munisteri will continue to be at the front lines of defending liberty in Texas.

Mark your calendars now, and join Village as we fight to keep Texas RED and KEEP AMERICA GREAT!

—Theresa Kosmoski, VRW 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Programs

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE A Beacon of Hope, Freedom, and Democracy: Make 2020 Great!



Sometimes it seems as if we Americans are living in two worlds—parallel to each other and very different. The Democrat party led by Speaker Pelosi and driven by the far-left Socialist wing of their party voted to impeach a duly-elected

President for non-criminal activity. Sadly, the leadership of the Democrat party has become more and more narrow and politically

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President's letter cont.

partisan. Blind with rage and vitriolic hate of President Trump, the Democrat party has lost its way.

Let's be clear, not all Democrats are far-left Socialists. There is common ground between a lot of Democrats and us Republicans.

*"The person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally, not a 20 percent traitor."*

—Ronald Reagan

No doubt there are a lot of folks in the center looking to their left *and* to their right and taking stock. Kindly remind your friends in the middle of these simple truths:

A vote for Republicans is a vote for freedom;

it is a vote for personal responsibility;

it is a vote for the rule of law;

it is a vote for freedom of speech;

it is a vote for free enterprise;

it is a vote for freedom of religion;

it is a vote for reduced federal regulation;

it is a vote for limited taxes;

it is a vote for energy independence; and,

it is a vote for national security.

There is a choice.

In his December 17, 2019 letter to Speaker Pelosi on the eve of the United States House of Representatives' vote to impeach him, President Trump laid out a long list of Republican accomplishments achieved so far under his administration:

"You and your party are desperate to distract from America's extraordinary economy, incredible jobs boom, record stock market, soaring confidence, and flourishing citizens."

(I've taken the liberty of categorizing the accomplishments that President Trump listed in his letter.)

**STRONG ECONOMY:** Historic tax and regulation cuts; replacement of NAFTA trade deal with USMCA (Mexico and Canada), a breakthrough Phase One trade deal with China; massive new trade deals with Japan and South Korea; cancellation of the Paris Climate Accord; and, becoming the world's top energy producer;

**EMPLOYMENT:** 7 million new jobs and lowest-ever unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans;

**HEALTHCARE:** Elimination of the individual mandate, and the first decline in prescription drug prices in half a century;

**STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE:** A rebuilt military; a completely reformed VA with Choice and Accountability for our veterans; the first new branch of the United States Military since 1947, the Space Force; a defeated ISIS caliphate and the killing of the world's number one terrorist leader, al-Baghdadi; withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal; a reduction in illegal border crossings; the ending of Catch-and-Release; and, the building of the Southern Border Wall;

**ISRAEL:** Recognition of Israel's capital and opening the American Embassy in Jerusalem; recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights;

**THE COURTS:** More than 170 new federal judges and two Supreme Court Justices; strong protection of the Second Amendment; and criminal justice reform

President Trump concluded to Speaker Pelosi in this particular paragraph, "You cannot defend your extreme policies—open borders, mass migration, high crime, crippling taxes, socialized healthcare, destruction of American energy, late-term taxpayer-funded abortion, elimination of the Second Amendment, radical far-left theories of law and justice, and constant partisan obstruction of both common sense and common good."

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President's letter Continued

Under Republican leadership, America is President Reagan's vision of a "Shining City on the Hill"—a beacon of hope, freedom, and democracy. 2020 will be the year that the silent majority reasserts itself and sets things right. Village Republican Women has the opportunity to affect change and help make Houston, Texas and America one again.

—Deanna Harrington, VRW President

## Save the Date



1/17/20	<a href="#">GHC POWER UP 2020 Biennial Fundraiser</a>
1/22/20 *	<a href="#">VRW General Meeting*</a>
1/25/20	<a href="#">TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN LEADERSHIP DAY 2020</a>
2/11/20	Greater Houston Council of Republican Women Nuts and Bolts Leadership Workshop at Trini Mendenhall
5/15/20	<a href="#">TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN</a> Tribute to Women Luncheon
6/6/20	VRW Ways and Means Fundraiser Lunch Event

## Campaign Activities



March 3 is the Texas Primary. Get ready. Get involved. Learn about the Republican candidates to make an informed decision. Let's keep Harris County **Red!**

Volunteer opportunities with Harris County Republican Party:

- GOP Truth Squad
- Voter Registration
- Adopt a Precinct
- Engagement Event Volunteer
- Block Walking
- Phone Banking
- Office Support

Visit [Harris County GOP](#) to volunteer.

Don't forget to record your hours!

—Anne Trousdale, VRW Campaigns Chair



## Americanism



Please let me know if you are a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar (VDVR). I will begin scheduling Voter Registration drives in late January and would like to make all VDVR's aware of the opportunities. I am also working with the Abbott

Campaign who also call for volunteers to work drives that they arrange. Please send an email to [mary@landassoc.com](mailto:mary@landassoc.com) with your name and contact information.

Watch for dates on upcoming VDVR classes. If you attended training last year, your registration is good until the end of 2020.

Why register voters? – Each voter registration drive creates awareness about the importance of voting, even for currently registered voters. Help us spread the word.

—Mary Grace Landrum, VRW Americanism Chair

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## Minutes from the November General Meeting



The meeting was called to order by our President Cheryl Dalton at 11:30 am at the Houston Racquet Club. The invocation was given by Robyn Harrison. Cindy Siegel

led us in both the pledge to the United States flag and to the Texas flag. The American Minute about the history of Veteran's Day was given by President Dalton. She then called on Tony Buzbee who spoke to us briefly about his run-off election and the importance of voter turn- out. All guests and candidates were then invited to introduce themselves to us.

The minutes were approved as read and President Dalton then explained our need to approve an amendment to the Budget Report which would increase the amount by \$1000.00 to the web master so that the club would be able to hire a new one to fill the vacancy. Theresa Kosmoski made the motion and Deanna Harrington seconded it. The motion passed. A basket was passed to collect gift debit cards and cash for Camp Hope.

Deanna Harrington introduced Judge Ken Wise who gave a fascinating talk high-lighting Texas Vets throughout the different conflicts of our state and country.

Before we adjourned President Dalton reminded us of our Christmas party on December 8 and asked us to bring medium size teddy bears which will be given to the Child Assessment Center.

We stood adjourned at 12:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Remick

Recording Secretary

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## \* Lunch fee change notice

Effective: January 2020

We have enjoyed some of the best lunches around town for Republican clubs. Due to the Houston Racquet Club policy, there will no longer be a "no-lunch" option. All who attend will be charged the \$30 lunch fee.

## LEGISLATIVE



### Presidential Impeachment: The Legal Standard and Procedure

The involuntary removal of a sitting President of the United States has never occurred in our history. The only legal way such can be accomplished is by the impeachment process. Impeachment alone, however, does not remove the President. Impeachment itself is more akin to bringing charges against the President. In order to remove him from office, the Senate, sitting as his jury, must convict him of the "charges". Here's how it works.

Article I § 2 of the United States Constitution gives the House of Representatives the sole power to impeach (make formal charges against) and Article I § 3 gives the Senate the sole power to try impeachments. Article II § 4 of the Constitution provides as follows:

*"The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."*

There is substantial difference of opinion over the interpretation of these words. There are essentially four schools of thought -- and some disagreement within those four categories. Yes, this is a grey area.

### Congressional Interpretation

The first idea is the one our current House of Representatives seems to have followed. It has been rejected by most legal scholars because it is premised on the believe that the Constitution is subject entirely to whatever interpretation Congress collectively wishes to make and would have the effect of having the President serve at the pleasure of Congress. President Gerald Ford summarized it when he was a Congressman as follows:

*"What, then, is an impeachable offense? The only honest answer is that an impeachable offense is whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history; conviction results from whatever offense or offenses two-thirds of the other body considers to be sufficiently serious to require removal of the accused from office..."* Congressman Gerald Ford, 116 Cong. Rec. H.3113-3114 (April 15, 1970).

### An Indictable Crime

The second view is that it is necessary for a President to have committed an indictable crime. This view was adopted by many Republicans during the impeachment investigation of President Richard M. Nixon. The proponents of this view point to the language of Article II § 4 itself, which seems to be speaking in criminal law terms. There are also other places in the Constitution which seem to support this interpretation. For example, Article III § 2 (3) provides that "the trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury." Similarly, Article II § 2 (1) authorizes the President to grant pardons "for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment." This sentence also implies that the Framers must have thought the acts which would support impeachment, to be criminal in nature.



Legislative cont.

## Misdemeanor

The third approach is that an indictable crime is not required to impeach and remove a President. The proponents of this view focus on the word "misdemeanor" which did not have a specific criminal connotation to it at the time the Constitution was ratified. This interpretation is undermined by details of the debate the Framers had in adopting the specific language to be used for impeachment.

Initially the standard was to be "malpractice or neglect of duty." This was removed and replaced with "treason, bribery, or corruption." The word "corruption" was then eliminated. On the floor during debate the suggestion was made to add the term "maladministration." This was rejected as being too vague and the phrase "high crimes and misdemeanors" was adopted in its place.

## Relating to the President's Official Duties

The fourth view is that an indictable crime is not required, but that the impeachable act or acts done by the President must in some way relate to his official duties. The bad act may or may not be a crime but it would be more serious than simply "maladministration." This view is buttressed in part by an analysis of the entire phrase "high crimes or misdemeanors" which seems to be a term of art speaking to a political connection for the bad act or acts. In order to impeach it would not be necessary for the act to be a crime, but not all crimes would be impeachable offenses.

Unfortunately, as with many phrases in the Constitution, we are left to interpret language that often had a different meaning when the Constitution was written and apply its intent today. Ultimately, the Supreme Court has the final authority to interpret the Constitution. It has not yet had the opportunity to interpret these phrases.

## How Congress Sets the Rules for Impeachment

Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have the right to make their own rules governing their procedure, and to change those rules. Under current rules, the actual impeachment inquiry begins in the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. That Committee holds hearings, takes evidence, and hears testimony of witnesses concerning matters relevant to the inquiry. Typically, as occurred in the case of President Nixon, there will also be a Minority Counsel who serves the interest of the party not controlling Congress.

Witnesses are interrogated by the Committee Counsel, the Minority Counsel, and each of the members of the House Judiciary Committee. The Committee formulates Articles of Impeachment which could contain multiple counts. The Committee votes on the Articles of Impeachment and the results of the vote are reported to the House as a whole. The matter is then referred to the whole House which debates the matter and votes on the Articles of Impeachment, which may or may not be changed. If the Articles of Impeachment are approved, the matter is sent to the Senate for trial.

## Impeachment Trials

The trial in the Senate is handled by "Managers" from the House of Representatives, with the assistance of attorneys employed for the prosecution of the impeachment case. The Senate sits as a jury. In the past the Senate has heard judicial impeachments by appointing a subcommittee especially for that purpose, which then reports its findings to the Senate as a whole. The Senate would then debate the matter, and vote, each individual Senator voting whether to convict the President and remove him from office, or against conviction. If more than two-thirds of the Senators present vote to convict, the President would be removed from office.

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## Republican's Ten Talking Points for Your Democrat Friends:

1. President Trump has a deep-seated, genuine and reasonable skepticism of Ukraine due to its history of pervasive corruption.
2. President Trump has a long-held skepticism of U.S. foreign assistance and believes that Europe should pay its fair share for mutual defense.
3. President Trump's concerns about Hunter Biden's role on Burisma's board are valid. The Obama State Department noted concerns about Hunter Biden's relationship with Burisma in 2015 and 2016.
4. There is indisputable evidence that senior Ukrainian government officials opposed President Trump's candidacy in the 2016 election and did so publicly. It has been publicly reported that a Democratic National Committee operative worked with Ukrainian officials, including the Ukrainian Embassy, to dig up dirt on then-candidate Trump.
5. The evidence does not establish that President Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Burisma Holdings, Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, or Ukrainian influence in the 2016 election for the purpose of benefiting him in the 2020 election.
6. The evidence does not establish that President Trump withheld a meeting with President Zelensky for the purpose of pressuring Ukraine to investigate Burisma Holdings, Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, or Ukrainian influence in the 2016 election.
7. The evidence does not support that President Trump withheld U.S. security assistance to Ukraine for the purpose of pressuring Ukraine to investigate Burisma Holdings, Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, or Ukrainian influence in the 2016 election.
8. The evidence does not support that President Trump orchestrated a shadow foreign policy apparatus for the purpose of pressuring Ukraine to investigate Burisma Holdings, Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, or Ukrainian influence in the 2016 election.
9. The evidence does not support that President Trump covered up the substance of his telephone conversation with President Zelensky by restricting access to the call summary.
10. President Trump's assertion of longstanding claims of executive privilege is a legitimate response to an unfair, abusive, and partisan process and does not constitute obstruction of a legitimate impeachment inquiry.

—Joanie Bain, VRW Legislative Chair

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## Look for VRW on Social Media and Online

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/VillageRepublicanWomen](https://www.facebook.com/VillageRepublicanWomen)

**Website** [villagerepublicanwomen.org](http://villagerepublicanwomen.org)

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