



# Santa Fe Federated ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Republican Women

[www.santafevrw.com](http://www.santafevrw.com)



## *Holiday Newsletter*

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### Time to Renew Your Membership!

## *Happy New Year*

January kicks off our annual membership drive for 2023. Please join us at our membership tea and coffee on January 7th! We encourage current members to bring a guest who may be interested in joining the SFFRW. Members can join by going to the SFFRW store on the website or by emailing [santafevrw@gmail.com](mailto:santafevrw@gmail.com) to make arrangements to pay by check. There will be a new membership form that can be filled out online or in person. 2023 is an important year to prepare for 2024 and we hope you will participate in activities and events that support Republicanism in our county and state. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year!





## *Message from the President*



Dear friends,

I'm excited about the new leadership of the Santa Fe Federated Republican Women. I have tremendous confidence in Anne and her team. And I look forward to our state NMFRW President, Teresa Barncastle, participating in our December meeting to install our new officers as the new board of directors for 2023-2024. While not elected, I will also remain on the board of directors in the position of past president during this term. I will also continue as the Director of Region A (northern NM) for the NMFRW and as Co-Chair for the 2023 NMFRW Biennial Convention, coincidentally in northern Santa Fe County.

I look back on my two terms with great happiness. Our board had a lot of fun and worked very hard for you. We started 2019 with our focus on human trafficking, mental health and opioids as these were the national issues in 2019. We brought in 9 speakers to discuss these issues. In 2020 of course the focus was on the presidential election and I stepped up to lead Get Out the Vote for the county. We called every Republican voter in the county who had not voted in recent elections. We increased Republican votes by 5000, which was huge (the Trump effect). In 2021 we started the year with election integrity as our priority because of, well, 2022. We built a good relationship with our new county clerk and had her and her staff in at 3 meetings. For the first time in anyone's recent memory, we had a team of poll watchers and challengers in 2021 from the FRW and held an election integrity class with over 20 attendees. And this year, Debra Archuleta practically doubled the size of that team. In 2022 we increased the number of Republican votes in a gubernatorial contest by 2000. Both in 2020 and 2022 we raised almost \$20,000, with your help, our members, that we gave to candidates and to projects that supported all Republicans. I'm proud of our record of achievement. I extend my heart felt thanks to my board of directors, committee chairs, and you, our members.

Sincerely,

*Anita Statmam*

*Thank you!*



## **Poll Workers, Poll Watchers and Poll Challengers!**

I want to thank all our Republican Poll Challengers that helped with both the 2022 primary and general elections. They did a superb job in challenging! Our party was even complimented by the county clerk on how many we had at polling locations and how much more they knew over the presiding judges. We had a lot of new people sign up as poll challengers. In the beginning, some were very hesitant to be sent out during early voting to get their feet wet. In fact, so much hesitancy that some attended challenger training two to three times. But that hesitancy went right out the window the minute a presiding judge told them they had to sit in one place and could not move. With election statutes in hand, they proved otherwise!

Our SFFRW poll challengers helping out were:

Judy Taylor, Vicki Flynn, Lisa Morris, Barbara Dedmon, Anne Doherty, Arleen Lujan, Jeanne Sei, Demi Poskonka, Vickie Zamora, Meryl Cheney, Kristina Harrigan, Sandra Cowger, Alexis Byfuglin and Sarah Ross.

Just as important, our poll workers, Sherry Morrison, Carolyn Olivent, and Sharon Mottola.

Looking forward to recruiting and training even more poll challengers for 2024!

Debra A. Archuleta  
Election Integrity Coordinator  
RPSFC





# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR 2023



## Sharon Mottola, Contributor

The 2023 session will begin on Tuesday, January 17th and will last for 60 days, ending on March 18th. The Republicans will have 24 members out of a total of 70 Representatives. Of the 24, 17 are returning incumbents and 7 are new to the House. The caucus has chosen new leadership for this session. Ryan Lane, an attorney from Aztec (District 3) will be Minority Leader and Jason Harper, a research engineer from Rio Rancho (District 57) will be the Minority Whip. Several former Representatives lost their elections or retired due to redistricting. Of these, Jane Powdrell-Culbert of Corrales (District 44), will be especially missed as she was our longest serving member.

The upcoming session will be a difficult one. The new Speaker of the House will be Javier Martinez, an attorney from Bernalillo (District 11). He is a more hard nosed Progressive than the previous Speaker, Brian Egolf an attorney from Santa Fe (District 47), and will be more difficult for our novice Leader Lane to work with.

We can expect many of Governor Lujan Grisham's priorities to reappear this session. She would like to see her view on abortion codified into New Mexico law. She eliminated New Mexico's former ban on abortion prior to the overturning of Roe v. Wade. She has said she will fight for the right to a safe, legal abortion in New Mexico. The legislature will likely have critical discussions on the timing of when a pregnancy can be ended by abortion, but the governor will push for no time limits and no excuses.

While resistant to the idea of allowing a fetus the right to life, the governor and some Democrat representatives would like to define rights for the environment in state statute and provide a legal basis for New Mexicans to defend those rights. The so called "green amendment" died in the Senate last session. If passed, this statute would allow anyone to sue anyone or any business if they felt the environment was being harmed. The writers of the statute would define harm. Businesses such as the oil and gas industry would be under constant threat due to their "pollution" of air and water.

Democrats are looking to extend workers rights to include paid family and medical leave. This measure, if passed, would allow workers to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave yearly to take care of their own or a family members' medical issues. This would affect part-time and full-time employees of all companies in the state with more than five employees. Employers and employees would contribute to a trust fund administered by the Department of Workforce Solutions. The Department estimates it would require \$36.5 million in the first year to implement the program and \$45 million in the second year to train staff, develop claim forms and educate workers and businesses. If passed, contributions to the fund would begin in January of 2025 and workers could begin receiving paid leave in 2026.

The state's current Public Health Emergency Rule regarding Covid is in effect until December 9th. Approximately 40% of state employees are still working from home, although some have been told to return to the office. There will be discussions regarding the existing telework policy. Some employees are resistant to returning to their offices and the Communications Workers of America union president, Dan Secrist, has said that any blanket overhaul of the policy without union approval would be a contract violation.

There will also be challenges to the vaccine mandate. The governor tested positive for Covid on November 23rd, following her return from the U.N. Climate Conference in Egypt. Many high profile people vaxxed to the max have contracted Covid, showing the vaccine has little to no effect on transmission. The issue of Bodily Integrity Rights will be hotly debated. While the governor believes the government has the right to force people to get vaccinated, she believes woman have the right to make their own decisions about their body regarding abortion. She is anything but consistent in how she views government power.

New Mexico's oil and gas revenue has added billions of dollars to the state's coffers this year. These are considered one time non-recurring revenues, which means they cannot be used to create new programs, add permanent jobs or increase pay for state employees. How to allocate this money and budget for the upcoming year will be another cause for party priority fights. Now that she has been reelected, the governor would again like to see tax increases on gasoline and to revive the Clean Fuel Standard Act, which was barely defeated at the end of the 2022 Legislative session.

Some bills have been pre-filed, but many will not be made public until the session begins. You can go to [nmlegis.gov](http://nmlegis.gov) to follow all the bills, committee meetings and floor sessions. The capitol building is open to the public and legislators always welcome visitors. It promises to be a fascinating and consequential session.





*Anne Dougherty*

# The Gift of Living in Interesting Times



“May you live in interesting times,” is an expression falsely attributed to an ancient Chinese curse. In fact, it was coined in 1936 by a British statesman in response to the German violation of the treaty at Locarno. Whether the origin of the curse was fake news or not is beside the point. Those words resonate today, just as much as they did on the eve of World War II.

However, I see living in interesting times as more of a gift than a curse because interesting times cause us to live more fully and recognize, if not appreciate, the impact our lives have on others.

As I write, many of us are still hashing over how the anticipated “Red Wave” that was supposed to sweep the country resulted in our just barely gaining control of the House. Explanations range from poor voter turn out in key counties to various levels of Democrat cheating. No doubt the truth varies from state to state and precinct to precinct. Thanks to the Internet we know too much and too little; we are left with emptiness and doubt.

When I moved to San Francisco more than 20 years ago, I began to recognize carrying the flag for conservative values would be something I would be required to do for the rest of my life if I valued our democratic republic. I saw the Left’s money, power and determination to undermine average people. I tried to warn friends in the rest of the country about some of the things I saw or heard, let alone the destructive, often hateful, designs of powerful people I met in both the Bay Area and Hollywood. My friends didn’t believe me - even my Republican friends.

Today, Republicans nationwide are finally on the same page. They understand what we are up against, and they are finally stepping up to do something about it. They are running for school board and city council; they are training as poll workers and poll challengers. They actually know the election laws in their state. In short they understand the impact their lives have on others and see the folly of creating impact through reluctance and ignorance.

Republicans, who have always claimed to value personal responsibility, religious faith, the rule of law and the Constitution, are once again living their values. And this is something to celebrate - for we do not have faith if we are afraid to stand our ground, and we are not taking responsibility for ourselves, our families or our communities if we turn a blind eye to what's happening around us. We can only uphold the rule of law if we know the law and if that law makes sense to us, for the law must serve to strengthen our communities, rather than tear them down.

Sure, what we're fighting is complex and confusing. Our enemy has multiple faces: the WEF, China, big tech, big pharma, mainstream media, the entrenched Democrat bureaucracy we call the swamp, and even some of our own elected Republican representatives who gain from the chaos. But our solution is simple and elegant: embrace what we know and defend it. Whether the solution is homeschooling our kids or running for office, whether it's talking to our neighbors or writing an op ed, we know that sooner or later destructive, non-sensical woke-ness will bump up against reality and, when it does, our people will be ready with calming common sense and laws worth respecting.

The other thing about interesting times is that they come to an end. The status quo that survives depends on the nature of the conflict itself. Just as little children need boundaries to become moral adults, one could argue that revolutionary forces need boundaries so that they don't destroy their cause in the process of fighting for it. Society has indeed become more compassionate and open minded since the 60's; but in trying to make their legacy permanent, leftist idealists now oppose the same free speech and tolerance they once prized.

Republicans are the voice of compassion and reason, and that is also something to celebrate. If we think of history as a kind of pendulum and interesting times as the far reaches of that pendulum before it turns back the other way, we can see that twenty, forty, sixty years from now, Republicans could be the stewards of compassion, reason, faith and law. If we hang in there - the way President Trump, Governor DeSantis and our other shining lights do - we will make our mark on history again, just as we did when Lincoln freed the slaves.

So, being alive today, participating in history as we are, is indeed a gift. It's a gift to be awake, alive and doing good. It's a gift we can give to ourselves, to our children, to our neighbors and to generations to come.



# Upcoming Events



## **Christmas Cookie Swap & Food Drive**

Thursday, December 15th 5:30pm-7:30pm

1225 Parkway Dr. Suite C

Santa Fe, NM 87507



## **Santa Fe Federated Republican Women Membership Tea**

Saturday, January 7th 10:00am-12:00pm

Aldea Community Clubhouse

3 Nuevo Milenio|Santa Fe

RSVP [santafefrw@gmail.com](mailto:santafefrw@gmail.com)



## **The First Session of the 56th Legislature**

January 17 - March 18

[nmlegis.gov](http://nmlegis.gov)



## **New Mexico Federated Republican Women Winter Board Meeting**

February 3-4, 2023

Hilton Downtown Santa Fe

Check [nmfrw.org](http://nmfrw.org) for registration details



## **Republican Party of Santa Fe County Biennial Organizational Convention**

January 28, 2023

9:00am-3:00pm

Register at [sfrpnm.com](http://sfrpnm.com)