So, What Have You Done for Me Lately?

Well, not me literally. However, what have you done recently to help meet Article II.b. of our Bylaws? So you don’t have to look it up (P.S. I don’t have it memorized either), Article II is our Objectives. Item b is to increase the effectiveness of women [and men] in the cause of good government through active political participation.

Maybe you are a bit like me. I’ve certainly been frustrated and at times, even disgusted, with what we’re seeing, hearing, and reading about every day in terms of the protests, the blame game, posts on Facebook, Tweets, and news media. What has happened to the ability of so many to engage in honest and appropriate discourse? Protected speech is at the core of our liberties and while we may not always agree or like what someone says, this freedom has been fought for since the birth of our great nation.

Some of you might also be like me and feel you don’t always know how best to respond or exactly what to say to make a sound argument. In those instances, we tend to either not respond at all or get caught up in perpetuating what is already a downward spiraling communication. To move beyond either of these reactions, and in alignment with Bylaws Article II.b., I recently completed Part I of a training program to become a more effective grassroots activist and have learned a lot. There will be opportunities for two more sets of advanced training, should I choose participate, but what’s important now is to begin putting what I’ve learned into action. Armed with additional practical tips and training, I look forward to sharing such with you in the future.

For now, consider a couple of basics:

- Though there are many methods of communication, current statistics still show that communicating in person is the most effective. When seeking involvement from others, making the request in person and being as specific as possible has a greater than 30% chance of achieving the desired result. That’s ten times greater than just through methods such as e-mail blasts and mailers.
- Having a concise message on a single, focused topic (a few solid, specific points) is always best. Chip away over time; don’t try to cover every topic or issue all in one conversation.

Finally, remember that God tells us “do not fear” 365 times in the Bible. We can step out of our comfort zone, we can work for the cause of good government through many avenues. We can do so because He gives us the necessary guidance and strength and our hope resides in Him.
Constitution Day

Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

When Constitution Day falls on a weekend or on another holiday, schools and other institutions observe the holiday on an adjacent weekday.

The law establishing the present holiday was created in 2004 with the passage of an amendment by Senator Robert Byrd to the Omnibus spending bill of 2004. Before this law was enacted, the holiday was known as "Citizenship Day." In addition to renaming the holiday "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day," the act mandates that all publicly funded educational institutions, and all federal agencies, provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day. In May 2005, the United States Department of Education announced the enactment of this law and that it would apply to any school receiving federal funds of any kind. Source: Wikipedia
Celebrate the Birthday of Our United States of America Government

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all Americans to observe this important day in our nation's history by attending local events in your area. Celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, parades and demonstrations of our Love for the United State of America and the Blessings of Freedom Our Founding Fathers secured for us. www.constitutionday.com/

Meetings

NOTE: All General Meetings
GVTC Auditorium @ 6:00 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Meetings</th>
<th>Board Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 11th (Monday)</td>
<td>September 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9th (Monday)</td>
<td>October 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13th (Monday)</td>
<td>November 9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December Christmas Party</td>
<td>December 14th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S25/Person or $40/Couple
Please see our Facebook page, or Bar-W.Org for more details—including sponsoring your favorite Comal County salsa, and presale tickets at this event.
This photo is the newly rediscovered Herodian road between the Pool of Siloam and the Temple. Archeologists in awe as they are uncovering the ancient City of David, the Holy sites not seen in more than 2000 years, confirming history, Bible prophecy, confounding theologians, Christians and Jews excited!

Israel destroyed… several times with new cities built on the remains of the past. The state of our nation, is dire, are we headed for destruction?

People everywhere threatening violence. Just today, a Facebook post from someone who has no idea who I am, “we have to get rid of snowflakes like you.” On the reverse side of that same coin, there are many leftists posts I’ve blocked because of threats and vulgarities!

Israel, born from The Word of God, built by people who honored and trusted Him, destroyed by kings and priests enamored by the deceit of power, wealth beyond counting, deceiving those who CHOSE deceit over truth. Yet restored by individuals who heard, who spoke His Word again, and inspiring others to follow and rebuild.

America, born from those seeking Him and freedom bestowed by Him. Declaring for all time: WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS.

How simple.. SELF-EVIDENT… clearly seen and understood, all, all, no exceptions… BY THEIR CREATOR… belonging to, from God, not to be infringed by any ..LIFE, LIBERTY, PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. A nation born by His Grace, built by men and women of honor, and those choosing Truth and not deception.

There is always evil, there will always be those seeking power and wealth beyond measure, and many who CHOOSE deception. But they cannot forever destroy anything that God declares is His.

We prayed for Him to give us a leader who would begin to rebuild on the remains of our liberties that seem to be infringed upon. Many of us believe He heard and honored our repentance and turning to Him. But the leader of the nation cannot do all the labor alone.

Our labor assignment is clear. Get knowledge (stay informed) and with knowledge seek wisdom… (get to work on right things, put on the whole armor of God every day). Forgive as we are forgiven..a soft answer with wisdom liberally seasoned with truth, turns away wrath. Pray without ceasing, pray for those in authority that it may go well with us.

When the mountain seems too big, WE tell it to move, and HE tells us to trust. May He who loves more than we comprehend, may He bless America again.

Psalm of David, 34: 14-17

14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; 16 but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth. 17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
In this case, I’m referring to the recent legislative session, and subsequent special session that was called by the Governor. The main buzzword the past few months seemed to be “Property Tax Reform” and “Closing Property Tax Loopholes.”

The more proper term might be “State Passes the Buck.”

While several senators and representatives masquerade under the banner of being the property tax heroes, they’re either playing on your ignorance, or the idea that you’ll just listen to their carefully cherry-picked bullet points on why their proposed legislation is so heroic and pure.

I traveled to Austin to testify on one of these bills during the hearings and was horrified at how inconvenient the facts seemed to be to these folks and when speaking to our local representation, being fed back the inaccurate bullet points was disappointing at best, especially when one representative told me that it did not affect me personally, so they weren’t sure why I was so upset about the proposed legislation (I do not work for my own self interests; I have 35,000 people who have represented me to be their voice in important matters and was offended that that would even be suggested). The exact bill and representative will remain unnamed at this time.

However, the point is that there is a disconnect between our representatives and their constituents, for whom they should be carrying the water.

Also, every time you hear that they have cut the State budget in one place or another, just remember there’s more to the story and that those “cuts” will still have to come from somewhere.

In the 254 counties, we refer to those as “unfunded mandates,” which means that they are unfunded by the State, but forced on the counties, cities, and school districts to pick up the slack.

Things like court appointed attorneys, indigent defense, all areas of county jail funding, special elections, electronic voting equipment, autopsies, costs for collecting motor vehicle fees and taxes, and open meetings mandates are just some of the mandates passed down by the state to be funded by local budgets.

When looking at the actual budget, there are cuts in many different areas, such as County Indigent Health Care Services and Indigent Care Reimbursements, which were cut by 60% and 91%, respectively.

All of this, while trying to also pass legislation to limit local entities to raise their property taxes to cover the difference (appraisal and revenue caps). It makes for great headlines, though.

Do you really believe that those costs have gone down? I know you’re smarter than that. Do your research.
10 REASONS WHY A DICTIONARY IS IMPORTANT
(from the Dictionary Project, Charleston, SC)

1. A dictionary is an essential tool for a quality education.
2. A child cannot do his or her best work without a dictionary.
3. A dictionary helps you teach your friends, siblings & relatives new words.
4. A dictionary is shared by everyone in the home.
5. Using a dictionary keeps you from looking stupid.
6. A dictionary makes you smarter.
7. A dictionary helps you make new friends by creating new associations by learning new words.
8. A dictionary helps you learn more words so you can earn more money.
9. A dictionary helps you understand the world in which you live.
10. A dictionary helps us work together.
The 19th Amendment Gives Women the Right to Vote

Reprinted from the National Archives, commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, August 18, 2017

On a hot August day in 1920, Representative Harry Burn listened as the Tennessee House of Representatives debated an issue that had been simmering since well before the Civil War—woman suffrage.

For generations, long before 24-year-old Burn was born, the woman suffrage movement had as its goal an amendment to the U.S. Constitution allowing women the right to vote.

The movement had begun in 1848 at a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, but it took 30 years to get the amendment introduced in Congress. Action on Capitol Hill was very slow. Until 1914, the Senate voted only once, turning it down, and the House did not vote at all.

Meanwhile, the suffragists took their fights to the states. Through legislative action or state amendment, the movement had some success. In the 1916 election, women could vote for presidential electors in 11 states. By 1920, even without the referendum, women would have been able to vote for presidential electors in 30 states.

Finally, in the spring of 1919, Congress passed the amendment and sent it the states for ratification. The States acted quickly, and by August 1920, 35 had approved it. In all but one of the remaining states, the amendment had either been rejected or had no hope of being approved.

With one additional state needed, the push for ratification focused on Tennessee. Supporters and opponents of the amendment, the press, and thousands of spectators flocked to Nashville to witness the proceedings. Carrie Chapman Catt, the latest in the long line of woman suffrage leaders that had included Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, was also there.

Tennessee's Senate had already approved it, but after several votes in the House, the issue was deadlocked, 48 to 48. As the debate continued, Burn opened a letter from his mother.

"Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in ratification," mother Burn wrote. Harry had been counted among the opponents, but when the next vote was taken, Harry voted in favor of the amendment, and ratification was approved.

Thus, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was ratified on August 18, 1920, in time for women in all states to vote for President later that year.

The next day, Harry Burn explained his vote to angry opponents: "I believe in full suffrage as a right. I believe we had a moral and legal right to ratify. I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."
That was the provocative title of the talk given by Eric Burkhart at the August 14th Bar-W meeting in the GVTC Auditorium. Mr. Burkhart, a CIA Operations Officer who served tours in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, recently retired after being deliberately poisoned while working in Kosovo, where his job was to protect GIs on the ground by befriending people who were willing to share information about their government. “It's surprising how many people will work with you,” he said, “because they liked what we stand for—conscience.” The priority was always to not put the contact's life or family in danger while finding out what would make the person share their government's secrets.

But, he explained, “9-11 was a seminal point. Espionage changed in every way. It had still been slightly a gentleman's game—everyone did things pretty much the same. But 9-11 was something that operations officers didn't know how to deal with. There was no one to recruit since [the terrorists'] motive was to kill and then die.” Despite that, when he was in Iraq, his job was to befriend insurgents who were blowing up GIs on the roads. The intelligence he gathered saved a lot of American lives.

Mr. Burkhart was good friends with Ambassador Chris Stevens, who was murdered in Benghazi. They were both Texans and they liked to talk about Texas. “He was put in a place with no security because Hillary wanted to create a US-friendly government there as part of her legacy. Then later there was that ridiculous cover-up.”

An audience member asked, “Why was nothing done about Benghazi?”

“Congress only takes things as far as the polls,” Mr. Burkhart replied. Besides, “Obama's policies were not criticized because people would be called racist, so much was swept aside. And Republicans are still going along with all this because they don't want crazies showing up at town halls.”

Mr. Burkhart explained that the main reason he was speaking to us was that when Donald Trump won, he was surprised and pleased. After the election, the Democrats developed a plan to defeat President Trump's agenda. “They're petrified because if his agenda succeeds, there won't be another Democratic president for decades.” He supports President Trump's immigration policy and his push to renegotiate the treaties that Obama made sure would put us always at a disadvantage.

“The Democrats are determined to use any tool to cripple [the President's] effort,” he emphasized. This is part of a long-term plan. “Obama decided to politicize government. He filled mid-level and above with political appointees. Every department is full of them. The point is to obfuscate, to help Hillary. The governments can no longer function because the people are political appointees, so they don't do a good job. The media has become an armed wing of the Democratic Party.” Things are the same in the military with Democrats placed in positions of authority.

A lively question period followed. The major question the audience had was how we could fix all this.

“Just keep voting!” he said.

Eric Burkhart's book, Mukhabarat, Baby! My Life as a Wartime Spy for the CIA, is available on Amazon.
Political ads are paid for by the candidates or their committees and DO NOT constitute an endorsement by the Bulverde Area Republican Women.
Political advertising paid for by the Bulverde Area Republican Women – PAC Not endorsed by any candidate or candidate's committee.