

"There's a Place for you at our Table"



Elizabeth Black Administrator of Elections



2018 is going to be a very busy election year and, with so many upcoming elections, we thought our members would enjoy meeting and receiving information from our new Montgomery County Administrator of Elections at our **March 6, 2018**, meeting.

Elizabeth Black and her staff are preparing for the May 1, 2018, County Primary Election; the August 2, 2018 State Primary and General Election; and the

State General and City election on November 6, 2018.

Elizabeth assumed the role of the Administrator of Elections on March 1, 2017, replacing Vickie Koelman upon her retirement in February 2017.

After studying the resumes, conducting interviews in a pool of 21 applicants, the Election Commissioners made a unanimous decision to appoint Elizabeth Black to be the new Administrator of Elections.

Elizabeth is a native of Clarksville. She is a graduate of Austin Peay State University with a bachelor's degree in business and a graduate of Murray State University with a master's degree in business administration. She has worked with Montgomery County Government for over 10 years. She first served as the Communications Director for the County Mayor's Office. She became a Certified Admin-



istrator of Elections from the State of Tennessee in May 2017. Elizabeth is married to Dan Black and has two children, Katherine and Lilly.

Luncheon Meetings are every first

Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am at the Clarksville Country Club. Cost is \$19.

Make check payable to MCRW (separate checks for all other items.)

When you receive your reservation request email from **Joan Niles**, please respond as to whether you will attend or not, by clicking "Reply" with a yes or a no and include your name. You can make your reservation by email joanniles@gmail.com or phone **616-450-2800**.

Deadline for making reservations is Wednesday evening **before** the date of the meeting on Tuesday. Deadline for canceling reservations is Sunday evening. Remember that "a reservation made is a reservation paid." If you know someone who does not have email, let her know to contact Joan by phone.



<i>2018 — 2019 Club Officers</i>	
President	Brenda Lewis Graham
1st Vice President—Programs	Pamela Johnson
2nd Vice President — Membership	Opal Kennedy
Corresponding Secretary	Elaine Tucker
Recording Secretary	Nancy Adkison
Treasurer	Juanita Golson
Assistant Treasurer	Syndi Carlson
Immediate Past President	Joy Huggins

Committee Chairs

- Americanism
Willi Frank
- Armed Forces/ Homeland Security
Willi Frank
- Budget & Finance
Cheryl Chapin
- By-Laws
Teresa Tuttle
- Campaign Hours
Nicole O'Connor
- Caring for America
Diane Green—Chair
Marty Matthews—CoChair
- Chaplain
Barbara Corley
- Club Achievement Awards
Pat Allen
- Communications
Joy Huggins
- Facebook & Website
Marie Tillman
- Fundraising
Nicole O'Connor
- Historian
Juanita Golson
- Leadership
Niesha Wolfe
- Legislative
Ashley Elizabeth Graham
- Literacy/Education
Ellen Twombly
- Luncheon Reservations
Joan Niles
- Newsletter Editor
Marie Tillman
- Parliamentarian
Pat Allen
- Publicity
Joy Huggins
- Voter Registration
Peggy Vaughn

Meet Your Officers . . .

Last month, we introduced you to Opal Kennedy and Elaine Tucker who are serving another two years in officer positions. This month, we will introduce two more officers, in the order that bios were received.

Our new **President, Brenda Lewis Graham**, was born and raised on a farm in Moore County Tennessee. She graduated with a BS and M.Ed. from Middle Tennessee State University and taught elementary school for 40 years, retiring from Ft. Campbell Schools. She is the parent of two adult children and a new granddaughter and has been married for 39 years to one of our Associate members, Philip Graham who is a local Clarksvillian.

Among Brenda’s volunteer work, she has been Neighborhood Chairperson for the American Heart Association and Event Chairperson for the Middle Tennessee Alumni Board of Directors. She served as First Vice President for the this club and presently serves as the correspondence secretary for the Montgomery County GOP.

Brenda enjoys reading and cooking and playing with Buddy the cat. She tries to live by the motto *“Leave the world a better place at the end of the day than you found it at the beginning of the day”*.

We are pleased that Brenda is serving as our President for 2018-2019.

Serving us as **Treasurer** is **Juanita Golson**. She was born in Idaho, but grew up in

Washington state. She met her husband when he was stationed at Ft Lewis, WA. Before being stationed at Ft Campbell, they were stationed in Germany and were able to stay there for almost 8 ½ years. The Gholsons’ three youngest children were born while they were in Germany. Her husband retired from the military August 31, 2001, just before 9/11.

Juanita is a proud parent of 8 children and 19 grandchildren, with another one on the way. They have been living in Clarksville for almost 24 years.

Juanita has been a stay-at-home mom and works as a Stampin’ Up@ demonstrator. She loves crafts, crochet, cross-stitch and reading and working in her flowerbed when the weather is nice.

Another of Juanita’s passions is proving to be beneficial to our club. She reports that she loves to work with computers and family history. Juanita has set up the PayPal account that we are able to use on our website and she has set up the SQUARE credit card reader for us. She is putting us in the “tech world”!

We are glad that Juanita first started coming to the club when Pam Johnson invited her and then decided to join the club right away and has been a member ever since.

Other officers to be introduced are Pam Johnson, 1st Vice President, Nancy Adkison, Recording Secretary and Syndi Carlson, Assistant Treasurer.

Please Pay your Dues for 2018. Just \$25 per year! Men may join as Associate Members for \$10 per year. Make all checks payable to MCRW and send to: **Opal Kennedy, 1151 Needmore Road, Clarksville, TN 37040.** You may also pay your dues at the Luncheon meeting.

In order to be one of the clubs with the highest membership in the TNFRW, we need everyone to pay their dues and recruit new members. We have **54 paid members and 6 paid associate members.**

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

There have been SO MANY sick among our group that we will not attempt to name them for fear that we will leave out someone. Please know, if you’re among that group, that we wish you to regain your good health and come back and be with us again.



If you know of a current or former member who has been or is ill, has suffered a loss or could just use a little cheer, please give **Elaine Tucker**, Corresponding Secretary, their names and addresses so she can send them a card.

We are sad to report that Joyce Bellenger, a long-time member passed away recently. Remember her family in your prayers.

Please share your good news with us, too.

A Message from Your President

St. Patrick's Day is around the corner and with luck of the Irish!

We, of course, know a thing or two about luck – that it tends to follow hard work! Our Montgomery County Republican Women's Club certainly knows how to get to work! With the Lincoln Reagan Day Dinner approaching and the annual Ladies Day on the Hill right behind, we are grateful for the opportunities to showcase our members, our club, and our Republican Party.

Republican women across the State of Tennessee know a thing or two about hard work, too. In fact, [Newsmax recently announced the Top 100 Influential Republican Women](#) and three Tennessee ladies made the list! No surprise to see our own **Congressman Marsha Blackburn** leading the pack as the 6th most influential! **Speaker Beth Harwell**, Tennessee's first female Speaker of the

House, was listed at 59th and **Congressman Diane Black** at 97th. What wonderful examples of hard-working women we have in our own back yard!

Whether or not we ever make the *Newsmax* Top 100 list, each of us has tremendous influence in our own networks. From volunteering for the Party to making calls for campaigns, attending events, inviting a girlfriend to our next meeting — there are countless ways we can work hard and impact those around us. Of course, our voices are always needed in Nashville and Washington to support our Republican elected officials and our Republican values!

As we leave behind a long, gray winter (and flu season, hopefully!) and welcome Spring, I want you to know how thankful I am for each of you and the hard work you willingly give to influence our community.




Montgomery County
 Republican Women

Brenda Lewis Graham
 President

Blgfanngr151@gmail.com

Home: 931-552-7667
 Cell: 931-801-3654

Our Club Objectives

- To promote and inform public through political education and activity.
- To increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.
- To facilitate cooperation among the National and State Federation.
- To foster loyalty to the Republican Party and promote its principles and candidates in all elections, including non-partisan elections.
- To support the objectives and policies of the Republican National and Tennessee Executive Committees and to work for the election of Republican Party nominees.
- To attain Diamond Award in 2018-2019.



The 110th General Assembly *Ashley Elizabeth Graham*
Legislative Committee Chair

Make no mistake about it, the Second Session of the 110th General Assembly is in full swing! We all seem to be finding the right offices in the new Cordell Hull building, getting all our steps in going up and down the new tunnel, and enjoying the frenzy of early, early, early spring (if we say it enough times, the rain will go away and spring will come!).

This month, I wanted to highlight a few really neat things for you all. There's a movement in Nashville (and across the country) to take another look at criminal justice. The goal should be recidivism of most offenders – out of our jails, off the tax dollar, and into the community as productive members of society! Part of that work is a reform of the fees charged to defendants whose charges are dismissed. Leader Mark Norris has sponsored SB 2626 to lower the expunction fee from \$350 to \$180 for defendants whose charges are dismissed due to a successful completion of a pretrial diversion program.

Of course, education is always a hot topic in the General Assembly! HB 1599, sponsored by Representative Forgety, is a great example of using public-private partnerships to help make sure all Tennessee students are ready for success. The bill incentivizes businesses to provide students with work-based learning opportunities by clarifying students are covered under the school district's liability insurance AND by providing \$500 tax credits per student to participating businesses. Bills like this one are a good way to improve early post-secondary opportunities for Tennessee's high school students.

In some fun news, there's a bill up this session to name the last week of February, each year, as Tennessee Songwriters Week. If it passes, we should celebrate next February with a Montgomery County Republican Women Karaoke Night! 😊

As always, please feel free to reach out with any question about legislation. Happy to be a resource! And let me know if you're headed down to Nashville – I'd be glad to show you around. (ashleyelizabethgraham@gmail.com).

MCRWC to Host Candidate Forum on April 7, 2018

Pam Johnson is working on an event to host a forum of May primary candidates. More detailed information will be forthcoming, but we wanted to give you advance notice so you can mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 7, 2017** for a breakfast meeting at the Clarksville Country Club.

When the full event is finalized, you will receive a separate email about it. So, please watch for that to come.



You just need to (1) be aware of this, (2) put it on your calendar and (3) **watch for the email!** **We need your support** to make this a successful event.




Tennessee Federation of Republican Women



The Iris Messenger

As a member of the Montgomery County Republican Women, you should be receiving the newsletter that is prepared for all TnFRW members. If you're not receiving it yet, please let [Opal Kennedy](#) know and she will make sure that your name gets sent to the TnFRW and your email added so you can receive it. If you don't have an email and would like to receive the newsletter, let **Brenda** know and she will make sure that you get one. You can download from the TnFRW website by [clicking here](#).

You can download Newsletters from our website! [Click here](#).



Peggy Vaughn has scheduled a Voter Registration drive before the May 1 Primary.
It will be held at the public library on Tuesday, March 13th from 11AM--4PM. Please contact Peggy to schedule a time that you can volunteer to work this important event.

As winter fades away, we find ourselves craving lighter, fresher flavors—but we're not quite ready to give up on soup. Spring is the time to send hearty winter stews into hibernation, to say farewell to the root vegetables and grains that have been in heavy rotation, and in their place, embrace the bounty of fresh vegetables that are showing up at the market.

From our Cookbook...



Spring Soup

Leslee "Honey" Alexander

Page 42

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 cup chopped green onions or leeks
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1-1/2 quarts hot water
- 2 potatoes, pared, quartered, thinly sliced
- 2 medium carrots, pared and thinly sliced

- 2 tsp Salt
- 1/2 cup raw regular white rice
- 8 stalks fresh or frozen asparagus, cut in 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound spinach, washed and chopped
- 1 cup light cream (or half and half)

Melt butter in a 3-quart kettle, add green onions and onion, cooking over low heat, about 5 minutes. Add hot water, potatoes, carrots and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer covered 15 minutes. Add rice and asparagus and continue to simmer covered for 25 minutes. Add spinach and simmer 10 minutes longer. Stir in cream. Bring just to boiling. Flavor is enhanced if soup is made day before and reheated at serving time.

Would You Like to Have A Cookbook?

Okay? Have we tempted you enough that you want to get a complete cookbook? There are sooooo many wonderful recipes that you will enjoy.

Copies are available at the Montgomery County GOP headquarters or contact **Brenda Graham**.



May 1 Primary Qualified Candidates

The deadline for candidates to return petitions to the Election Commission was February 15. Those candidates have now been formally qualified and are listed here.

Please check to see in which County Commission district you reside and be sure to **support your Republican candidate** if you have one who has qualified to run in the May 1 Primary.



County Mayor - R	James J. W. Durrett
County Commission - Dist. 1 - R	John M. Gannon
County Commission - Dist. 3 - R	Joseph Dewayne Smith
County Commission - Dist. 4 - R	Joseph P. Weyant
County Commission - Dist. 7 - R	Delmer L. Burchett
County Commission - Dist. 8 - R	Ronald Sokol
County Commission - Dist. 10 - R	Martha J. Brockman
County Commission - Dist. 11 - R	Joe Creek
County Commission - Dist. 14 - R	Jimmy Brown
County Commission - Dist. 17 - R	David Hooper
County Commission - Dist. 18 - R	Jason Knight
Trustee - R	Corinthia P. Elder
Trustee - R	Keith T. Norris
Sheriff - R	John S. Fuson
Circuit Court Clerk - R	Cheryl Castle
County Clerk - R	Kellie A. Jackson
Register of Deeds - R	Connie E. Gunnett

The first Board meeting of the year and the first for Barbara Trautman, the new TnFRW President was held on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the Brentwood Country Club. Those from Montgomery CRW attending were: Marie Tillman, TnFRW 2nd Vice President, Joy Huggins, Area 3A Vice President, Pat Allen, TnFRW SEC Liason, Teresa Tuttle, TnFRW Chaplain, Brenda Graham, MCRW President, Opal Kennedy, MCRW 2nd Vice President, and Willi Frank, MCRW Armed Forces and Americanism Chairman.

The **TnFRW Regents** Committee, Millie Gump, Mary Stimek and Marie Tillman, presented pins and certificates to Founding Year Members. The three Montgomery CRW club members who received a pin and certificate were: **Joy Huggins, Marie Tillman** and **Willi Frank**. See the picture of all the Founding year members here.

If you would like to become a Regent, please see Marie Tillman or go to the TnFRW website and click on the [Regent's Application](#).



TFRW Winter Board and Executive Committee Meeting





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The **Montgomery County Republican Party** is pleased to announce the Annual



Lincoln Reagan Day Dinner

to be held **Friday, March 16, 2018**. Republican Candidates for US Senate, US Congress and Tennessee Governor will be the speakers for the evening.

The cost to attend the event is a \$70.00 donation per person, or a table of ten for a \$700.00 donation. Tickets must be purchased in advance, as seating is limited.

Event Details

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM ~ Social Hour

7:00 PM ~ Program/Dinner

Wilma Rudolph Event Center

1190 TN Hwy 48

Clarksville, Tennessee

Dress is Business to Cocktail

Please contact the LRDD Committee if you would like to purchase individual tickets, sponsor a table, donate auction items, purchase an ad, or for general questions.

Contacts: Joy Huggins, Event Chair, 931-249-1413 or joydhuggins@gmail.com, or Marie Tillman, at 931-801-3564 or alicetillman1948@gmail.com or visit www.montgomerycountygop.org/ for more information.

This is an important fund-raising event for our local Party and your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

There are some great LIVE AUCTION items that you won't want to miss out on.

Please **GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!** Seating is limited and the tickets are going FAST!

Montgomery County Republican Women always work hard to make this event successful and we're looking forward to another great success!

Regular Monthly Club Meetings

MCRWC — 1st Tuesday — 11:30 am
 March 6, 2018
 April 3, 2018
 Clarksville Country Club

RRRW—3rd Saturday — 9:30 am
 March 17, 2018
 The Looking Glass

Montgomery County GOP
 4th Tuesday — 7:00 pm
 February 27, 2018
 March 27, 2018

Shooting for the Stars

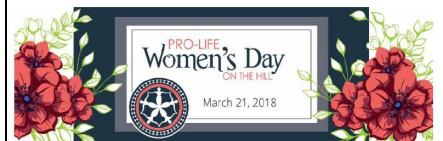


Ladies' Day on the Hill

Cost - \$40.00/Person

DoubleTree by Hilton, 315 4th Ave. N., Nashville

Monday, April 2, 2018



Tennessee Right to Life's Pro-Life Women's Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

War Memorial Auditorium

EVENT COST: \$35 per person

RSVP by March 16, 2018

[Click here](#) to register.

You can still go if you wish. Just let us know ASAP so we can add you to our table count.