

# The Rumbler

*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!*



December 2023



*Don't Miss It!*

New to the SNRW? Here is what's different about this club.

SNRW is a Political Action Committee (PAC), working at the grassroots level to get out the vote for Republican candidates. Funds raised go toward that goal.

We also devote our attention to educating voters on matters concerning Douglas County, Nevada and, our Nation.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 2504

Minden, NV 89423

Email address:  
sierranvrepwomen  
@gmail.com

**The Rumbler**  
**Monthly Newsletter**

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Anita Kornoff

Precious Proofreaders:  
Nancy Jarvis & Rita Hill  
PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR

ARTICLES AND  
PHOTOS TO:

Rumblernews@gmail.com

Photographers:

Donna Schehl &

Roseanne Farmer

Website:

sierranevadarepublicanwomen.com

Website Administrator

Rita Hill

Follow us on Facebook:

Sierra Nevada Republican Women

PROUD AFFILIATES OF THE NFRW  
& THE NVFRW

Welcome Members & Guests,  
SNRW Christmas Party  
Wednesday, December 13th  
COD Casino, Minden

Doors open  
11:30 a.m.

## Potluck Party

*(bring a favorite dish to share)*

- **Prize for Ugliest Christmas Sweater**

*Fun*

- **Each One Bring One**—You and your guest each have a chance to win prizes

- **New to the group?** Hear what's special about SNRW

*Laughter*

*Music*

- **Bring a new pair of socks to donate to someone in need.**

- **Drawing for the Membership Renewal Contest Tote Bag**



*Spread Christmas Cheer!*

R.S.V.P. [charmman@live.com](mailto:charmman@live.com)  
please let her know how many  
guests you are bringing

\$5 ENTRANCE FEE  
FREE BEVERAGES





## DECEMBER

- Dec. 07 SNRW Board Meeting, HQ, 11:30 a.m.  
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 13 SNRW Regular Meeting C.O.D. Casino,  
Doors open 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day  
Chanukah Begins at Sundown
- Dec. 26 Kwanzaa
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

## JANUARY 2024

- Jan. 04 SNRW Board Meeting, TBD
- Jan. 10 SNRW Regular Meeting C.O.D. Casino,  
Doors open 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## FEBRUARY

- Feb. 01 SNRW Board Meeting, TBD
- Feb. 08 Nevada Presidential Caucus(Location TBA)
- Feb. 14 SNRW Regular Meeting C.O.D. Casino,  
Doors open 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 19 Presidents Day

## MARCH

- Mar. 07 SNRW Board Meeting, TBD  
**NO SNRW Regular Meeting this month**  
Instead, we invite you to attend our Annual St.  
Patrick's Fundraiser Dinner on March 9th at  
Carson Valley Inn
- Mar. 09 St. Patrick's Dinner at Carson Valley Inn**
- Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 31 Easter Sunday

Douglas County Republican Women (DCRW)  
Meets at 11 a.m. on the First Wednesday of the Month  
at Valley Christian Fellowship, Minden

Douglas County Republican Central Committee (DCRCC)  
Meets at 7 p.m. the Second Thursday of the Month  
at the Elks Lodge, Gardnerville

# 2023 SNRW Executive Board



President  
Natalie Yanish  
775-843-7142  
natalieyanish@gmail.com



1ST V.P., Programs  
Leslie Lawson  
775-881-8511  
lesliel1993@yahoo.com



2nd V.P., Membership  
Anita Kornoff  
775-782-9642  
SNRW.membership  
@gmail.com



Treasurer  
Mary Lou Gervie  
301-580-7430  
chuck.marylou@gmail.com



Recording Secretary  
Jann Fagnoli  
775-267-0445  
775-781-0267  
jannfagnoli@gmail.com



Gerri Grego  
Corresponding Secretary  
530-545-2839  
gbfrego@sbcglobal.net



Immediate  
Past President  
Sondra Condron  
775-782-9534  
scondron@charter.net

**Note:** President is a ex-officio (voting) member  
of all Committees (but not counted in a  
quorum) except for Nominating.

# President's Message

## Incoming...for 2024

This month I wanted to talk about incoming in two different realms. I'll start with the confusing incoming legislation, and end with a happier incoming note on leadership for SNRW.

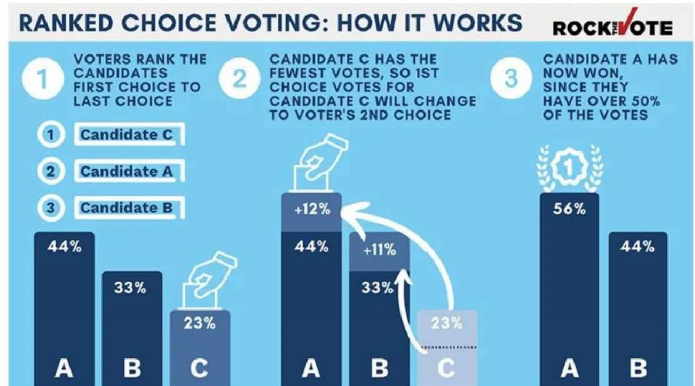
Last month I mentioned rank choice voting (RCV) and wanted to elaborate on this legislation which would change the way Nevadans vote in the future. Expect to see this on the ballot when you vote on November 5, 2024 as a constitutional amendment which requires passage a second time in two consecutive elections, and this is the second go around as it passed in 2022.

### Nevada Question 3, the Top-Five Ranked-Choice Voting Initiative

**A "YES" vote supports** establishing open top-five primaries and ranked-choice voting for general elections, which would apply to congressional, gubernatorial, state executive official, and state legislative elections.

**A "NO" vote opposes** establishing open top-five primaries and ranked-choice voting for general elections, which would apply to congressional, gubernatorial, state executive official, and state legislative elections.

The change does not affect the presidential election, but will be implemented for the State of Nevada legislators. So what does this measure mean? Currently, Nevada has closed primaries in which voters can only vote for candidates within their party, and can only cast one vote per candidate race. The new system would implement open primaries, in which voters can choose up to 5 candidates regardless of their party affiliation. In RCV (rank choice voting), if there is a candidate who wins in the first round with more than 50% of the vote, they win, and if not, the votes are recalculated by taking the votes for the last place candidate and redirecting them to the other candidates. If any candidate still does not have 50% plus one of the vote, the cycle continues until one candidate reaches the threshold. Confusing enough?



We have voted in a system of one person, one vote, and the candidate with the majority of the vote wins, which is called plurality voting. So why the change? Supporters claim that nonpartisan voters are left out of partisan races. The opposition of RCV say that the process is confusing and undemocratic. Nevada Republican Chairman Michael McDonald has gone on record saying that this type of voting process might result in "jungle primaries" in which the general election would have only Democrat Party candidates. In the United States, RCV was used more widely in the past, but fell out of favor. Only two other states - Alaska and Maine, use RCV, as well as some cities - New York, Minneapolis, and San Francisco. Some other countries such as Ireland and Australia have traditionally used RCV.

In more uplifting news, I invite you to join us for the December 13th general SNRW meeting, which is a potluck and a celebratory time to applaud our incoming and outgoing leadership. At the November SNRW general meeting, our incoming slate of officers were voted in for 2024. Unlike rank choice voting, this was a plurality vote:

Pat Smith, President  
 Leslie Lawson, 1st Vice President of Programs  
 Anita Kornoff, 2nd Vice President of Membership  
 Mary Lou Gervie, Treasurer  
 Jann Fagnoli, Recording Secretary  
 Charlene Close, Corresponding Secretary  
 And, Sondra Condon will be off the hook as Immediate Past President (although we all still look to her for guidance, knowledge, and advice).

*My Best,*  
 2023 SNRW President Natalie Yanish





### ELECTION DATES:

**Tuesday, Feb 6, 2024,**  
Nevada Secretary of State  
(NV SoS)  
Presidential Preference  
Primary Election  
(Party Affiliated Ballot only)  
Early voting dates available.

**Thursday, Feb 8, 2024,** Republican  
Presidential Preference Poll (aka  
Nevada Republican Party Caucus  
2024). Voting in person  
and one day only.

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024,**  
Primary Election for State  
Representatives and Local Offices  
(Party affiliated Ballot only)  
early voting dates available

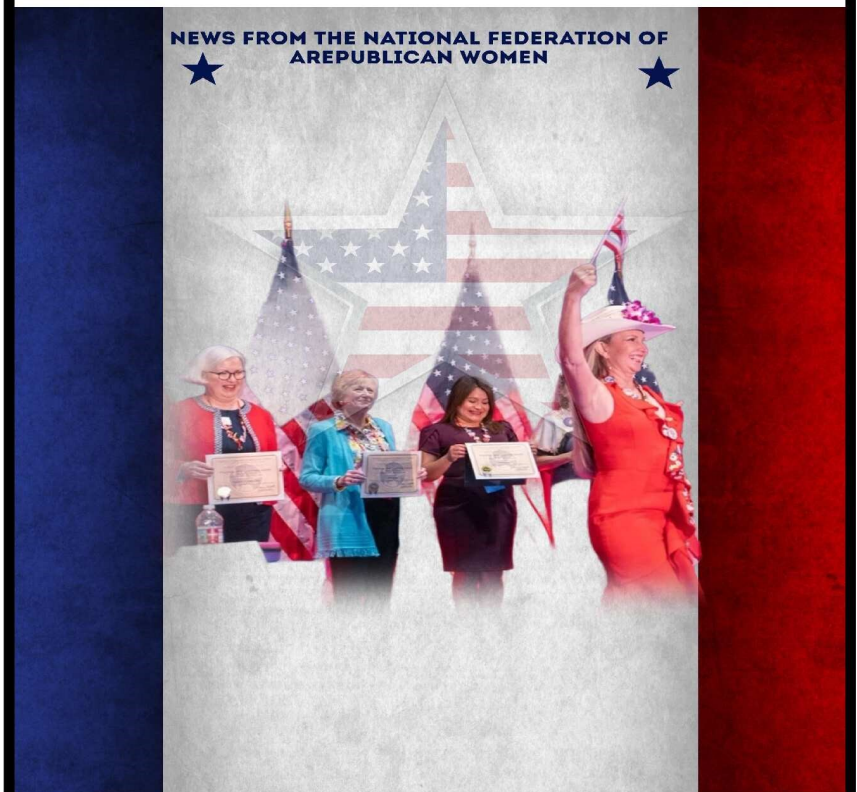
**Tuesday, Nov 5, 2024,**  
General Election (Presidential,  
State Rep & Local Offices)  
Open Voting;  
early voting dates available.

At our November Meeting Amy Burgans, Douglas County Clerk-Treasurer recommended the best way to ensure you vote is to vote in person and vote early.

**VOTE EARLY**

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Republican Women's Clubs  
Report Nearly Half a Billion Dollars in  
Campaign Volunteer Work*



National Federation of Republican Women members reported more than 14.5 million volunteer hours and more than 5.7 million volunteer phone call for the 2022-23 NFRW Political & Campaign Awards program, revamped by Chair Noriko Kowalewski and her committee. This outstanding achievement is valued at nearly \$436 million in volunteer dollars.

Oct. 11, 2023  
NFRW Communications



# Hurry and Renew Your SNRW Membership Dues

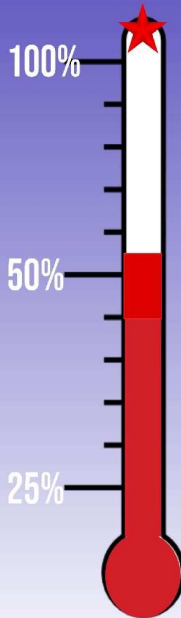
SIERRA NEVADA REPUBLICAN WOMEN 2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

HELP US REACH OUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL GOAL



*Tote Bag Drawing at  
Dec. 13th Meeting!*

Please bring your DUES  
to the next meeting.  
Returning members do not need  
to fill out a new application.  
Or, mail your check made out to  
SNRW  
SNRW, PO BOX 2504  
MINDEN, NV 89423  
QUESTIONS? CALL ANITA  
775-782-9642



**As of November 26th we are only  
slightly over 50% in renewals.**

**Please mail your dues in or bring them to the  
December 13th meeting and we'll double your  
chances to win a new SNRW tote bag  
by choosing TWO drawing winners.**

**Let's raise that thermomitor reading by the end of  
the year! Thanks!**

*If you have any questions about your membership  
status, don't hesitate to reach out to me at  
rumblernews@gmail.com*

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO SNRW  
PO BOX 2504  
MINDEN, NV 89423  
FULL MEMBER \$35 • ASSOCIATE \$20**



## Reminder to keep track of your Volunteer Hours

SNRW members and associates are requested to keep track of their campaign volunteer hours, and report them, along with an explanation, to Mary Lou Gervie every six months. By making this a habit, our club will accrue points toward an Achievement Award from NFRW. The first report includes July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Mary Lou will be collecting those hours at the end of December.

Campaign hours include:

- SNRW, DCRW, DCRCC meetings and travel time to and from the meetings
- All time campaigning for Republican or non-partisan candidates
- Attendance at local and state Republican conventions
- Paid and/or non-paid time working as an election worker
- Attending NvFRW meetings and conferences

*Thanks, Mary Lou*

**SPECIAL RUMBLER  
DEADLINE  
DECEMBER 20, 2023**



## Membership Recap

We began the new year with an informative visit from Republican National Committeeman Jim DeGraffenreid and Mayor Lori Bagwell installed our new board of executive officers at the January meeting. Club president, Sondra Condrón, and 1st VP Sharla were elected to Minden-Gardnerville Sanitation District Board member and Douglas County Board of Commissioners, District 2, respectively.

Although they did not continue their board positions in SNRW, Sondra, as immediate past president, remained with us in an advisory position. Her assistance proved invaluable as most of the board members were serving their first term.

The only returning board member was 2nd VP Jacie Peters; the brand-new members included President Natalie Yanish, 1st VP Leslie Lawson, Treasurer Sue Jeffrey, Recording Secretary Jann Fagnoli, and Correspondence Secretary Katherine Dickerson. However, as the year progressed, Jacie, Katherine, and Sue all experienced changes in their personal lives, requiring them to step down and be replaced by Anita Kornoff, Gerri Grego, and Mary Lou Gervie. It's one of the most fluctuating boards the club has seen in recent years.

Nonetheless, we kept moving forward and working toward club growth and improvement. Despite some early health concerns, Natalie persevered in her position as club president, Leslie brought in some outstanding guest speakers, and we were fortunate to have Mary Lou lend her expertise taking over the treasurer duties. Our club chaplain/reservations chair, Chalene Close, stepped forward with many ideas for improving the atmosphere at our meetings, including making the room more welcoming and adding refreshments and door prizes. She was joined by several terrific club members who pitched in to help.

In January, the SNRW made a proud showing, with ten members attending the NvFRW Winter Leadership Training Workshop—in spite of the freezing winter weather. In March, new member Gerri who had stepped up to chair the St. Patrick's annual fundraising dinner, organized a team to put on an outstanding event. We are grateful that Natalie has agreed to chair the St. Pat's Fundraiser for 2024. Jann graciously offered to co-chair, and they will be calling

on the membership to help with the many committee jobs it takes to put on the event. They are asking everyone to be thinking about exciting items to donate for the dinner's silent auction. This auction accounts for a large portion of the major fundraiser that keeps the SNRW going and comprises the donations that go directly toward getting Republican candidates elected!

In the spring, club officers and members participated in the 82nd Legislative Day at the state capitol and met newly elected Republican Nevada State Governor Joe Lombardo. We had a full house for our April meeting featuring Congressman Mark Amodei filling us in on congressional and legislative issues.

As a summer outreach program, we formed teams to take shifts, helping the Central Committee staff a Republican information table at the Minden Street Farmers Market. It was an opportunity to share literature on the Republican party, DCRCC, Republican Women's Clubs, and our events.

Several of our club members participated in the Carson Valley Days parade in June, helping decorate, riding the Republican float and passing out candy.

During the next several months, the membership committee designed and produced a custom tote bag to use as a membership renewal incentive and to sell at meetings.

The always informative Assemblyman Ken Gray spoke at our September meeting, where we discussed the first Republican presidential candidates' debate and other timely events. We kicked off our annual membership drive in October, with members joining and renewing each month. SNRW again earned the Diamond Achievement Award at the NvRW Biennial Convention in Reno. In November, we invited local veterans to be our guests and thank them for their service. (see pg. 9).

As we approach our last meeting of the year, we invite you to bring guests to share our potluck Christmas party and the installation ceremony at COD Casino on December 13th. It begins at 11:30 a.m. Come and have a blast!

*Thanks for all your support,  
Anita Kornoff, 2nd VP, Membership*





## Nevada Became a *Mail-In State* During COVID-19

For the 2020 general election, the secretary of state mailed 1.82 million ballots to active registered voters at an **average cost of \$1.46 each to the taxpayer**. Of those mail-in ballots, **671,906 or 36 percent were actually used**. Even when accounting for the 118,524 ballots returned as undeliverable, fewer than half—48 percent—of the mailed ballots were used to vote. **Most voters still chose to vote in person during early voting times or on Election Day**. And this was during a pandemic.

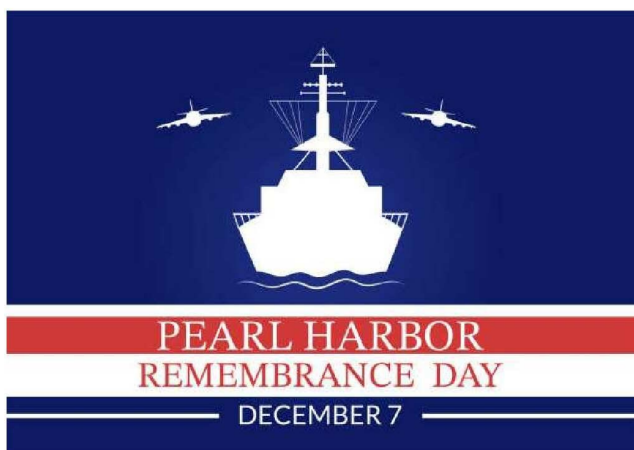
Put another way, 1.15 million mail-in ballots at a cost of \$1.6 million ended up somewhere other than in a ballot box. This is not a good return on investment. Plus, the results do something else—further stir up voter concerns about election integrity. Although in Douglas County concerted efforts are being made to guard against voter fraud.

However, now being a “Mail-In State,” doesn't mean you have to vote by mail. If you wish to vote or deliver your ballot in person, you may “OPT-OUT” online at <https://www.nvsos.gov/votersearch/>. The submission of this form lets the

Clerk Treasurer's Office know that you do not want to receive a ballot in the mail and instead wish to vote in person. These forms may also be picked up at the elections office at 1616 Eighth Street, Minden. Should you change your mind in the future, you can always complete and OPT-IN form.

**IMPORTANT: The Mail Ballot Opt-Out form deadline for the Presidential Preference Primary is FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 (60 days before election day). This includes online, mail-in, and in-person drop-offs.**

## DEADLINE TO OPT-OUT DECEMBER 8





# *The Wind of Change*

*Excerpts from an article by Susan Ruch, Chairperson Carson City Republican Party*

**H**istorically, we are living in exciting times. In America, there are many uncertainties with the direction of our country and the looming 2024 election. There are signs in other countries worldwide that times are changing for the better.

## **OTHER COUNTRIES:**

- Here we are in 2023, and Argentina has a new conservative, Trump-like President, Javier Milei. He has a background in economics (with two master's degrees), experience in the Senate, and strong Libertarian beliefs.
- It has taken Argentina almost 100 years, but they are turning the corner from years of harsh Marxism/Socialism. Their inflation rate is at 138%.
- They could not export their excellent beef for many years, but that law has been recently relaxed.
- In 2022, Italy elected its first female prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, leading its most right-wing government since WWII.

## **IMMIGRATION:**

Many European citizens want the massive number of immigrants to stop. They would like to start deporting them back to their homelands because of the damaging effect it has on their societies.

## **CHANGING PARTY DEMOGRAPHICS:**

As we watch these events unfold, this should give us a ray of hope for our country. Americans are slowly awakening from the trance the Democratic Party has gripped many citizens.

- A telling video has gone viral with black voters in Chicago telling Biden they have left the Democratic party.
- Latino values do not match with the Marxist Democrat's policies, so Latinos are coming to the Republican Party in the most significant numbers in history.
- Churches are starting to understand that they need to be involved in politics. They must encourage their members to be registered voters and vote for candidates with like values. Several in the area are allowing voter registration at their churches. Church involvement is critical since only approximately 52 percent of people of faith are registered to vote, and only 32 percent do. “

I believe our country is taking steps forward towards a brighter future. In the words of Bob Dylan's well-known song, *The times they are a changin'.*