

WFRW Slate of Nominees for 2019-2020

Nominee for President 2019-2020 – Dee Drewry

Club Chelan Douglas RW
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Dee was born and raised in Fresno, CA. As the daughter of a contractor she learned how to swing a hammer at an early age. Upon finishing school, she embarked upon a career in banking that spanned more than two decades and included many facets of the banking industry. As a young, single, professional woman, Dee was a Guardian ad Litem for the King County Juvenile Court and a foster parent. Dee retired from banking when she met and married her husband, Kris. During their early married years, they enjoyed extensive travels that took them internationally, as well as motoring across this great United States in a 40' bus and cruising the Alaska's inside passage.

After a few years of seeing "the sights," the Drewry's bought 7.5 acres on Lake Osoyoos and set out to develop a recreational resort community for 21 families. Her early upbringing as a contractor's daughter and a banking career came in extremely handy. As the development's Managing Partner, Dee was responsible for all aspects of daily operation and financial management.

She currently works alongside her husband, creating technical drawings and proposals for a closely-held business.

Dee's political activities have deep roots. As a teenager, she flanked a favorite uncle to many state and presidential campaign events. While these functions were definitely left-leaning, they opened her mind to politics. It was her banking career that created a conservative mindset, and *Voilà*, a Republican Woman was born! Upon relocating to the Wenatchee area, Dee joined the Chelan-Douglas Republican Women's Club in 2009, and didn't waste any time in becoming an energetic participant. She soon became the publicity chair and established the club's newsletter and website. Dee has been actively involved in fundraising and was the club's treasurer for six years. She is currently their Fiduciary Chair.

In 2011, she was asked to fill the vacated position of WFRW Membership Secretary and was the WFRW Treasurer for two terms before becoming WFRW President in 2017. Dee is also the Chair of the NFRW Technology Committee.

In addition to her involvement in the federation, Dee held the Douglas County GOP Vice Chair position and was interim Chair due to the Chair's inability to fulfill his term. She has been a DCRCC Commissioner District Representative and she has been the campaign treasurer for multiple candidates.

Dee was a foster parent and is a strong believer in serving our communities. She was a Guardian ad Litem for several years for the King County Juvenile Court.

Nominee for First Vice President 2019-2020 – Colleen Wise

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Colleen has been active in the Republican Party for over 20 years. Colleen started out by helping her mother, Nita Huber, President of Puyallup Valley Republican Women's Club now East Pierce, with club events. After helping with various club events, she ran for office and was elected Secretary and progressively held all offices except Treasurer, currently serving as President. She has served as 2nd Vice President of WFRW and currently serving as 1st Vice President.

As a single Mom she raised her son Travis, now a Sergeant Major in the Army National Guard. Travis is married to CJ, an RN, with two wonderful grandchildren who are a delight to hang out with.

After 28 years of service she retired from U.S. West Communications, and decided to run for Edgewood City Council. Colleen served from 2001 to 2005. This experience that added to the expertise she now uses to help solve problems and getting jobs done. She worked as an Office Manager for a small construction company selling leveling lasers and equipment as well as a Care Giver for a senior. She now works part time for a Property Management Company.

Colleen was elected as Vice Chair of Pierce County Republican Party in 2010 and served until 2014. She has continued to volunteer for the Pierce County Republican party and helps with many of our candidate campaigns, the Washington State Fair Booth, and anything that needs to be done.

Volunteering has been a mantra for her and over the years she has served as a Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader and Youth Director.

Colleen believes that if you are involved and keep moving, you stay young at heart.

Nominee for Second Vice President 2019-2020 – Gail Pappacostas

Club Republican Women of Whatcom County
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Gail and her husband live in the Bellingham area. They have lived in several regions of the U.S., mostly in the south. Their love of boating, discovering the beautiful waters of the San Juans, the Southern Gulf Islands and the Sunshine coast, where they have spent many weeks on the water, and the wonderfully cooler temperatures made clear their choice for living in their retirement years. They are active members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellingham, where she often plays her Celtic harp for the worship service.

Gail spent a full career in public elementary education. Those years were rich in classroom experience, in a leadership role, working with teachers to increase success in the learning experience for those children who needed extra support, and earning degrees to enhance her own effectiveness. This university time included being involved in an exchange education project with classroom teachers in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. This was an incredibly unique and rewarding experience, spending quality time in Russian elementary classrooms and homes, as well as hosting Russian teachers as guests in classrooms and homes.

Immediately following her retirement from education, Gail became interested in a national program, training and certifying musicians, primarily harpists, to play for the ill or dying. She completed the two-year training, was certified and was subsequently hired by a major hospital in the south as harpist for patients, family members and staff. She now volunteers at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham, playing for patients in all departments and on all patient floors. This continues to be a very rich experience as the music of the harp soothes and calms all who hear the music.

During this transition time, Gail became increasingly interested in politics. Moving to the northwest and a very different political climate from her previous time in the mid-west and the south, quickly brought her into an active role with Republican Women of Whatcom County in Bellingham. Gail served four years as Membership Chairman and two years as PCO for her district. Upon completion of these two roles, she was elected to serve as president of RWWC, which she is still serving. She also worked for Elizabeth Scott who was running for Congress, District 1, as her Whatcom County Coordinator. This role was hugely encouraging as she witnessed such commitment from this fine candidate, as well as continuously experiencing the interest and willingness of Whatcom County Republicans to do what it takes to bring a victory to all our fine Republican candidates.

It is Gail's hope, in the position of WFRW 2nd Vice President, to provide club presidents with interactive experiences and an open forum for bringing supportive ideas to effect greater involvement of club members.

Nominee for Third Vice President 2019-2020 – Cristi Lysne

Club Republican Women of Whatcom County
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I have been involved with the Republican Women of Whatcom County since 2015. I have served as 1st VP in charge of programs, 2nd VP in charge of fund-raising, and 3rd VP in charge of membership, and as parliamentarian. I have worked on many local campaigns over the years. I served as Whatcom County GOP Vice Chair for four years and as interim Chair for one year.

I became involved with the WFRW in 2007 and have served as the Northwest District Director and as District Director Coordinator. I have served on the NFRW Veteran's Committee.

I am a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the VFW Auxiliary, Trinity Lutheran Church and Women Sharing Hope.

Most importantly and proudly I am the mother of two daughters and the three most adorable and smartest grandkids in Whatcom County if not in the world!

Nominee for Membership Secretary 2019-2020 – Billie Jean Liedahl

Club Silverdale Seabeck Republican Women's Club
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Billie Jean is a member of the Silverdale-Seabeck Republican Women's Club (SSRW) in Bremerton. She served as President of SSRW from June/2013 through December/2015 and found that position to be humbling, challenging, and exciting - learning a lot from the members, board, and other community leaders. Prior to that, she held the office of 1st Vice-President/Programs 2012-13, Recording Secretary 2010-11, and Parliamentarian 2008-09. She has served on many committees chairing some: Awards, Movie Nights, and the Joint Club Barn Sale just to mention a few.

Billie Jean has one son and when she married her husband Hal in 1978, inherited 5 more boys for a total of 6! Quite a challenge for her! She claims that it wasn't as bad as she thought it would be and she is close to and loves all of them. Now, she has 5 grandsons! Still no girls in her life. She is waiting for great-granddaughters! Her beloved husband, Hal died 14 years ago and she remains widowed.

Her faith is important to her and she has served faithfully as the Class Administrator for Bible Study Fellowship International in the Bremerton Day Women's class in Bremerton for the past eight years. In addition to this call, she is active on her church council as the Music and Worship facilitator.

For the past 17 years Billie Jean has been working part time for Encore Communities as a front desk receptionist. Her regular job is every-other weekend at Country Meadows and as needed at Encore's other three locations to cover vacations and sick leave.

Billie Jean's previous professional career was spent working for the telephone company, starting in San Diego, California in 1966 as an operator with Pacific Telephone & Telegraph. She advanced to data collection and assignments, system administrator, technical software support, and finally disaster planning and recovery for systems and data centers for the 13 states within the then US West territory. She retired from US West in Seattle (now Century Link) in 2000 with 32 years of service. She is familiar with and uses WORD, EXCEL, and in a pinch, Publisher.

Nominee for Recording Secretary 2019-2020 – Sharon Hanek

Club East Pierce County Republican Women’s Club
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Sharon Hanek is an accountant, community volunteer, wife, and mother who became active in the political arena when she became involved in education issues. Her “mother bear” instincts brought her into the world of working with politicians and the political process. She now advises others on how to successfully navigate through Olympia and be a strong voice.

She has been active in her community serving on various boards of sports and education non-profits in addition to leadership positions in Republican organizations. Sharon has held elected positions in both the Pierce County Republican Party and in the Washington Federation of Republican Women. She is a current member of the East Pierce Republican Women’s Club.

In 2012 Sharon made headlines by being the first candidate to win a State-wide write-in campaign in her primary bid for the Office of State Treasurer. She received triple the requirement needed and votes from every County in the State. Although she did not win the general election, she went on to win her next race in 2015 for the position of Pierce County Charter Review Commission where she was elected Chair.

Sharon maintains her accounting and tax practice in the Bonney Lake area where she and her husband raised three conservative children. Today their empty nest has been filled with three vibrant dogs.

Nominee for Treasurer 2019-2020 – Cindy Kadinger

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I was born in Iowa and raised on a farm. I graduated from University of Northern Iowa with a BA in Liberal Studies. I later went back to school to obtain a nursing degree and worked as a nurse ever since.

My political interests started young in high school with the re-election of Richard Nixon. I also helped on the Dr. Greg Ganske campaign to unseat a democratic incumbent of 36 years.

I moved to Washington in 1999 and was under the impression there were no Republicans in Washington State and that I better keep my conservative leanings to myself. In 2015, I decided to get involved again with party politics and researched the best place to start and found the Snohomish County Republican Women's Club. Debbie Blodgett was the president and warmly welcomed me to the group. That Fall, I was asked if I would like to be Program Chair, which included being 1st Vice President. I have had a wonderful time planning the programs for our members. I have concentrated on educating our members to the issues and holding elected officials accountable.

I have also managed the monthly newsletter for the club and currently managed the website for the SCRWC members. Presently, I am helping Debbie Blodgett on her campaign for State Representative, position 2 in the 1st Legislative District.