

WFRW Slate of Nominees for 2021-2022

Nominee for President 2021-2022 – Billie Jean Liedahl

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As a member in good standing of the Silverdale-Seabeck Republican Women's Club (SSRW) in Silverdale, WA, I am honored to be considered for nomination as President of WFRW. I have served WFRW as the Membership Secretary for the past four years and if elected, I will do my very best to represent WFRW and all of our members.

I am currently serving as 1st Vice President/Programs in SSRW, served 2 terms as 2nd Vice President/Membership 2018-19 and am a Past President, having served in that office from June/2013 through December/2015. Prior to that, I held the office of 1st Vice-President/Programs 2012-13, Recording Secretary 2010-11, and Parliamentarian 2008-09. I have also served on many committees sometimes as chairman: Awards, Movie Nights, and the Fashion

Gala Fundraiser, and Joint Club Barn Sale, just to mention a few.

My faith is important to me and I continue to serve faithfully as the Class Administrator for Bible Study Fellowship International in the Bremerton Day Women's class for the past ten years. In addition to the Bremerton location, Satellite classes are held in Port Angeles, Port Townsend, and Silverdale. Total class attendance is approximately 350 women and 100 children ranging in age from infant to 15. 2020 has been especially challenging with organizing training and group studies to be on-line due to the Covid-19 crisis.

For the past 19 years I have been a part time employee for Encore Communities as a front desk receptionist. My regular duties include working every-other weekend at an independent senior living center and as needed at Encore's other three locations (rehab, assisted living, and memory care).

I am a proud 1964 graduate from Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach, California. My previous professional career began in San Diego, California in 1966 as an operator with Pacific Telephone & Telegraph. After Operator Services, I was assigned to data collection, system administration, technical software support, and finally as a Certified Disaster Planning and Recovery agent for systems and sites for the 13 states within the then US West territory. I retired from US West in Seattle (now Century Link) in 2000 with 32 years of service. I am familiar with and use WORD, EXCEL, and in a pinch, I can punch my way around in Publisher.

Right about now, you're probably asking yourself... doesn't that girl ever have any fun??? You mean aside from my Republican friends and politics? Of course, I do! I'd probably spend my last nickel traveling. I have been fortunate enough to visit Acapulco, Mexico City, Morocco, Egypt, Hong Kong, Prague, and twice to Paris, and of course... Canada. For stay at home fun, I enjoy ceramics (my nickname is "the gold queen" for obvious reasons), tending the rose garden, card-making, and reluctantly... quilting. I finished my first quilt just last Christmas. The quilting bug has bitten me, and it will be no time at all before I have more fabric than ceramic molds and paper products! More storage needed, ha, ha, ha.

Nominee for First Vice President 2021-2020 – Sharon Hanek

Club East Pierce County Republican Women
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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.

Sharon has held the positions of WFRW Membership Secretary and Recording Secretary for two terms.

Nominee for Second Vice President 2021-2022 – Georgene Faries

Club Evergreen Republican Women
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My name is Georgene Faries. I am an enthusiastic Republican! I am proud to be part of our Grand Old Party, the Great Opportunity Party! I **AM** the Elephant in the Room!!

I am applying to be the next 2nd VP of WFRW. Why? Because I want to see clubs grow, thrive and be effectual! Clubs are people and I love people!!

I want to see women effective in the cause of good government. I want to see women participate in politics! I want to be part of educating women, old, young and in-between on the issues. We need to know what they are and how to articulate them in our own speak to our friends and family. Women need to know what a great purpose we have. I want to help women influence the generations, current and upcoming!

I was born and raised right here in Washington State. I have been married to my handsome hubby, Scott Faries for 44 years and I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Being a grandmother is one of the highlights of my life. I love my grandbabies and I want this country to still be the light shining on a hill for them and their children in the years to come. I want them to see the stars and stripes flying in the breeze and get a lump I their throats. I want them to have job opportunities, housing and freedom!

I have a son who retired medically from the Army. He was wounded in Iraq. He was an officer in the United States Army. When his military service started, I began my political involvement. A military family has a vested interest in the country and believes deeply in the principles laid down by our Founding Fathers. I f my son is willing to die for his country then by golly I am willing to fight for her on the home front!

When I heard my son take his oath to be an officer of the United States Army, I heard him pledge to defend the constitution from enemies foreign and domestic, I was so emotional, I knew I too had to step UP!

The constitution and the values of our Founding Fathers are very important to me and it is my desire to know them better and teach them to friends and the next generation.

I would like to see women become effective in the cause of good government and absolutely want to see Washington State go Red!

I love God and country and I am active in my church & the Snohomish County Republican Party. I had the enormous privilege of putting together the program for the Trump Rally in Everett in 2016 for then candidate Donald J Trump! It was and electrifying night!

I am Snohomish County State Committeewoman, WSRP Executive Board, Past President of Evergreen Republican Women's Club still active, Immediate Past Chair of the 39th Legislative District still active, a PCO, Past 3rd VP of WFRW.

I absolutely want to see Washington State go Red! I absolutely want to See President Donald J Trump get re-elected!

Nominee for Third Vice President 2021-2022 – Ellie Ownbey

Club Chelan Douglas Republican Women
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After a couple of years, I stepped up and became the secretary. Two years later I became the treasurer and then for two years after that, I was the Vice President of membership. Presently, I am serving as President of our club.

Over these 8+ years I have learned a lot about the functioning of our executive board and the greater duties of the of the WFRW executive board.

I have attended our WA Federation meetings as well as the National Federation meetings in Philadelphia and then in Indianapolis last year.

I am also a PCO and the secretary for the Chelan County Central Committee. I have attended our county, state and even the National Republican Conventions.

I would consider it an honor to represent WFRW as 3rd Vice President. As 3rd Vice President I would become Chairman of fundraising. In these trying times of no social contact, in person meetings are impossible. Thus, fundraising in unique and different ways will be required. With fundraising being the life blood of WFRW, I will strive to find fun and creative ways to encourage all of our members to join in on the financial support of our organization.

Nominee for Membership Secretary 2021-2022 – Toni Whitmyre

Club Republican Women of Whatcom County
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Hello, my name is Toni Whitmyre. I've lived in Bellingham (Whatcom County) for 28 years with my husband, Dennis. We have raised 3 children, which are now married and starting families of their own. My years in 'Corporate America' were spent working for a well-known California bay area construction company in their accounting department as their computer operator. I was fortunate enough to not have to work once I had children, which I'm very thankful for.

I've been active with the Republican Women of Whatcom County for 15 plus years and have held numerous board positions. Currently I'm our club's Treasurer. I'm also a PCO for District 203 here in Whatcom County. I'm excited to be on the ballot this year and look forward to being the Membership Chair for the Washington Federation of Republican Women.

Nominee for Recording Secretary 2021-2022 – Colleen Wise

Club East Pierce County Republican Women
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My name is Colleen Wise and have been associated with WFRW, NFRW and my local club EPRWC for 20 plus years. Holding offices starting as a Secretary, 2nd Vice President then 1st Vice President and 3 times have been elected President, the office I hold now. Staying active is not unusual for me as have been your 2nd Vice President for 2 years and your 1st Vice for 4 years. My political career is not limited to Republican Women's Clubs, I have also been the Vice Chair for the Pierce County Republican Party as well as a short time as Secretary. To continue my efforts to stay involved, this time in my local community, I was appointed to Edgewood City Council May of 2019 and Elected to the position serving a 2-year term. I also served on this same City Council from 2001-2005.

Currently I live with my Mom, my mentor and the person that got me started on my political career. She was President, Secretary and Treasurer of our club for many years, made for great training. I have one son Travis who is currently assigned to the Army National Guard as a Sargent Major, married to CJ who is a RN with two very special Gran Children, Emma Joy 14 and Wesley 12. Of course, I need to mention I have a twin sister, Carol who is a member of the Columbia Basin Club, a brother John retired, a younger sister Elaine working as dietitian for Children's Home Society.

Being retired from a communications company after 28th years, where I spent most of my time in customer service gave me a foundation of service. With that chapter closed and not ready to be retired, it was on to a new calling, working with a construction supply company which taught me about construction, surveying and leveling equipment and meeting wonderful people in this field. For the last few years, I worked for Windermere Property Management in Yelm as an assistant to the Property Manager. This chapter has now closed and the decision is, how do I want the next years to look. Keeping my options open for more adventures.

For that one thing that people always ask, what is something that most people don't know about you? Well most don't know that I spent some time as a cowgirl and actually participated in a few cattle drives. Life can be so much fun.

Nominee for Treasurer 2019-2020 – Cindy Kadinger

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It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as Treasurer for the WFRW these past two years. I have been a "Washingtonian" for 20 years, hailing from Iowa originally. I have worked at a nurse for most of my career and have raised three daughters with my husband, David.

I became involved with politics in our state in 2015 by joining the Snohomish County Republican Women's Club. I served as 1st VP and Club President. An important goal for me was encouraging our members to become Associate members of neighboring clubs and support them by attending their meetings. I still believe in ladies coming together from other RW clubs on a state level; we become a powerful force for Republican causes and state leadership.

As the current Treasurer and member of the Budget Committee, it has been eye opening how a little from everyone can multiply into so much for our Republican cause. Therefore, membership is important to all of us. I plan on continuing my quest for a cohesive and relevant Washington Federation of Republican Women.