



~ *Established in 1965* ~
NOVEMBER 2023

The Elephant's Tale

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 11

2023 Executive Board

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*The Incline Village-Crystal Bay
Republican Women's Club
Presents...*



**Washoe Republican Party Chair
BRUCE PARKS on "Caucus vs. Primary"**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

The Chateau | 955 Fairway Boulevard | Incline Village
11:30 am – 1:00 pm



Bruce Parks was born in Hastings, Nebraska. He served in the U.S. Army for over 20 years, primarily in the 101st Airborne Division. After retiring, he attended East Carolina University before moving to Nevada where he worked in the field of corporate security. He is co-founder of the Nevada Patriot and served as the Secretary for Battle Born Patriots –

both political action groups. He is a community activist, a Constitutional Conservative, and currently serves as the Chair of the Washoe County Republican Party. Bruce and his wife Reva have lived in Nevada for 11 years.

**RSVP/payment of \$32 must be received by
November 10th, 12:00 noon**

Email Nancy Carlson nmcarlson01@yahoo.com
or purchase tickets at: <https://ivcbrw.org/> and click "pay."

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- ◆ IVCB Republican Women Vision and Mission Statement

RSVP nmcarlson01@yahoo.com, (650) 255-1435, or purchase tickets on our website: <https://ivcbrw.org/>. Click on "pay."
RSVP/PAYMENT must be received by 12 noon, November 10th, 2023.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fall is coming to a close as rain, snow and colder weather are signaling the arrival of winter. Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are quickly approaching with family gatherings and festivities. Our winter sports enthusiasts are looking forward to our first snowfall of the season.

The Nevada State Federation of Republican Women's Biennial Convention was held October 20th thru the 22nd at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno. Our club was represented by six delegates: Cretia Eyster, Nancy Carlson, Shirley Appel, Linda Smith, Patricia Moser Morris, and Joanelen Slocumb. State Parliamentarian Connie Skidmore and State Legislative Chairman Yolanda Knaak were also in attendance. Connie kept the convention in order with her parliamentarian expertise and Yolanda presented an excellent report on the latest Resolutions supported by the Federation. New state officers were elected to serve for the 2024-2025 term. The newly-elected State officers are as follows:

- **President**, Mary Beganyi – Spring Mountain Club Las Vegas
- **First Vice President**, Jennifer Tuggle – Boulder City Club
- **Second Vice President**, Cher Daniels – Churchill County Club
- **Secretary**, Linda Powers – Spring Mountain Club Las Vegas
- **Treasurer**, Barbara Kirk – Republican Women of Reno Club
- **Nominating Chairman**, Lori Piotrowski – Boulder City Club
- **Northern Director**, Kathy Doyle – Republican Women of Reno Club

- **Southern Director**, Melissa Blundo – Pahrump Valley Club

The newly-elected officers are members of both Northern and Southern Nevada clubs which all convention delegates agreed was a very positive election outcome. We now have an Executive Board representing all regions of our State. The afternoon session was very informative with speakers providing excellent information for the upcoming election year. The speakers were National Committee Chairman Jim Degraffenreid – Caucus/Primary Discussion, Daniel Honchariw – Rank Choice Voting, and Trent England – Dangers of National Popular Vote. These topics are complex and sometimes difficult to understand. We plan on inviting speakers to our club next year to better inform our members about these topics for the 2024 elections.

Thank you to our delegates that took the time from their schedules to attend the convention and take part in electing the 2024-2025 NvFRW state officers.



Do you know the difference between the presidential preferential primary, or "PPP" (occurring on February 6th) and the presidential caucus (occurring on February 8th)? If you don't understand the difference you are not alone.

Come to hear our November 14th speaker, Bruce Parks, Chair of the Washoe County Republican Party, explain the reasons you MUST vote in the caucus! Bruce can also answer questions about "Question 3," ranked choice voting. If we don't vote in the caucus and vote DOWN ranked choice voting, Nevada may never be the same.

Cretia Eyster



Membership



by Nancy Carlson

It is that time again, time to renew your membership in the Incline Village-Crystal Bay Republican Women's club! Please go online to our website at: <http://ivcbrw.org/> and go to the "Pay" tab on the home page. Click on the Pay tab and then on the "Register and Pay for Events" link in red. You will be directed to our Square payment site and can renew your membership online! If you prefer to renew by mail you can mail a check (\$50 full membership, \$20 associate membership) to: IVCB Republican Women, P.O. Box 3009, Incline Village, NV 89450. If you have any changes to your contact information please contact me and let me know.

Are You a Leader?

Are you interested in helping with the newsletter, membership activities, program activities, finance? Let us know, we can use your help!

November Birthdays! Are Missing Your Birthday? Let Me Know!



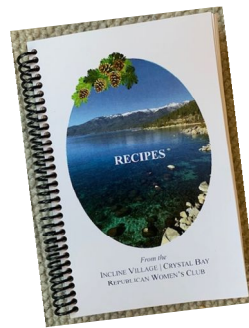
In the coming months, we plan to have a 3-part series from the writings of Thomas Sowell including excerpts from his latest book "Social Justice Fallacies," which harks back to his writings on social theory and intellectual history. Thomas Sowell is best known for his insights on racial controversies, but race isn't the main topic of most of his books in a career that spans more than six decades. Mr. Sowell, 93, is an economist who earned a doctorate from the University of Chicago, where his professors included Milton Friedman, Friedrich Hayek and other future Nobel laureates.

November 14

Speaker – Bruce Parks, Washoe Republican Party Chair

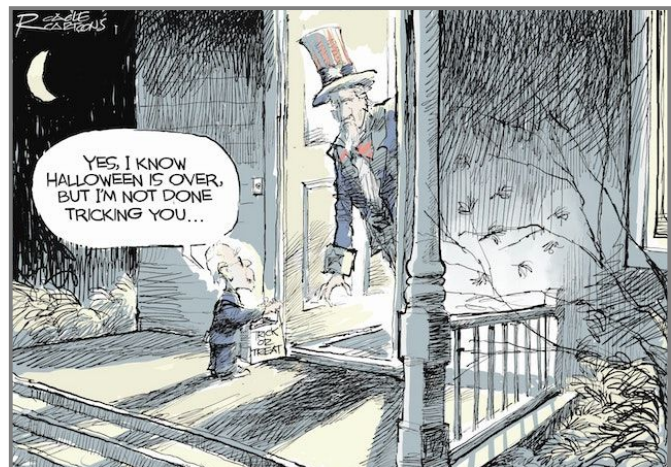
December 12

Annual Christmas Party and officer installation, installation by Lt. Governor of Nevada Stavros Anthony



Incline Village-Crystal Bay Republican Women's Club now has their very own cookbook for members and friends! You'll enjoy the 260 pages of recipes including sections for Appetizers, Breads and Miscellaneous, Meats/ Poultry/ Fish, Vegetables & Sides,

Soups & Salads, and Sweets. Cookbooks will be on display for purchase in our Boutique at our luncheon on November 14th.



The American Crisis, No. 1 — 1776

Category: International Relations

It is the madness of folly, to expect mercy from those who have refused to do justice; and even mercy, where conquest is the object, is only a trick of war; the cunning of the fox is as murderous as the violence of the wolf.

~ Thomas Paine



The National Popular Vote vs. the Electoral College

Some people advocate for the National Popular Vote with the cry that “every vote counts.” Not exactly.

The Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, determined that the President should be chosen by electors through a



process called the Electoral College. In this process each state gets as many electors as it has members of Congress (House and Senate). Including Washington, D.C.'s three electors, there are currently 538 electors in all. The voters in each state choose electors to serve in the Electoral College. After individual voters cast their ballots for president, the vote goes to a statewide tally. In 48 states and in Washington, D.C., the winner gets all the electoral votes for that state. Maine and Nebraska assign their electors using a proportional system. A candidate needs the vote of at least 270 electors (out of a total of 538), more than half of all electors, to win the presidential election. This process gives weight to all states, not just the states with the highest populations (California and New York).

The National Popular Vote is a process by which all electoral votes are awarded to whichever presidential ticket wins the overall popular vote in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In this scenario, those states with the most voters would determine the outcome of the presidential election, and those states with fewer voters (like Nevada) would have minimal impact (if any) on the outcome of the presidential race. Rural counties and states would have minimal impact (if any) on the presidential election. The National Popular Vote would result in Democrat wins and it is believed by many that it will put an end to the Republican Party.



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I'm sorry I missed doing a community update for October, just too much going on in our town and the world around us. I did attend several meetings in October so I will try to catch you up on what's going on.

It has been a busy month for all of us. Due to the sudden passing of our dear friend Ann Marie, we had to make some adjustments in our Executive Board. I volunteered to step in to the position of First Vice President. I am also going to continue in that position in 2024, unless someone would like to help me out.

A number of us traveled down to Reno this last weekend for the NvFRW convention at the Atlantis Hotel. It was two days of informative meetings. We had speakers educating us on three very important subjects. The first talk was on the upcoming Caucus which is taking place in February. This will be very important to Republicans in Nevada as it will be a chance to select our candidate for the Presidency of the United States. The second talk was on Rank Choice Voting, which is NOT a good thing for Nevada. There will be more on these subjects as the time goes forward.

Our Sheriff Captain Beard is retiring on October 26th. He made the announcement at the Community Forum on Friday October 5th and then spoke again at the Community Forum on October 20th. I'm sorry I was not at the meeting on October 20th to hear him. He is not going to be our Captain but will be spending time up here so we will still see him around.

It was announced on October 24th that the Recall of two of our Trustees has failed to collect the required signatures. As of this writing I do not

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

know what the next step will be. I know there were lots of our members on both sides of this issue. I hope that we can once again get back to being civil and bring our town back to somewhat normal.

As I said, I go in person to a number of the community meetings. It is easy to stay informed this way. I am again going to list how to go to these meetings.

Sara Schmitz puts her newsletter out once or twice a month and it is easy to subscribe to this by going to the website at <https://ivcbcommunity1st.org/>. She gives information on when the different meetings are and where. A very good email source of what goes on.

The second and third sources of information is the Conversation Café on Thursday mornings at the Aspen Grove meeting house. This is for the most part for seniors, we meet from 10:00–11:30. It is strictly just a group of us sitting around talking about different topics. Join us.

The third meeting is the Community Forum on the first and third Friday mornings at the Library from 9 to 10 am. This meeting is also on Zoom and in person. Usually on the following Saturday, the meeting minutes are put in an email. This too is easy to get by going to either Community 1st or the web page for the Community Forum at ivcbcommunityforum@gmail.com. There was so much that I cannot put it all in this article, so if you are interested please go to the websites.

As we all know, it is a scary time out there right now. It is my hope that we manage to get through all of the terrible things going on in Israel. We need to pray that the hostages are released and that things can be resolved soon.

Until next month, stay safe.

Shirley Appel



How Nevada can Avoid California's Insurance Disaster

By Linda Smith

I used to own property in California, as I suspect many of you did, or may still do. Most of us are painfully aware that California has an insurance crisis that is leaving thousands of homeowners without coverage. State Farm and Allstate have announced they will no longer sell new insurance policies in that state. Farmers Insurance is capping the number of new policies it will sell. And Chubb and AIG are curtailing their California operations.

These announcements come after several years of homeowners being informed their current insurer will not renew their policy. Insurance agents describe long-term clients in tears in their offices because no one will insure their most valuable asset – their house. Companies are no longer writing policies because it has become increasingly expensive, if not cost prohibitive, for insurance companies to operate in that state.

So how did California get this way? Governor Gavin Newsom conveniently blames “climate change,” but the causes go much deeper and reside on the doorstep of politicians like Newsom who have made the situation worse.

First, Proposition 103 passed in 1988 made the California Insurance Commissioner an elected office. This means, he/she is inclined to make publicly popular decisions (especially when they

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How Nevada can Avoid California's Insurance Disaster

aim for higher office) such as keeping premiums artificially low. Fortunately, in Nevada the Insurance Commissioner is an appointed position buffered by a higher appointed official, hopefully allowing our Commissioner to make tough business-sensitive decisions to keep insurance firms writing in our state.

Second, severe wildfires in California over the past five years have played a role in hurting the insurance situation, but this is due to mismanagement of their forests. California has mostly rejected controlled burning and fuels reduction to remove underbrush, resulting in unnatural forests that are timber-boxes. Further, failure to allow modern land management through logging operations has left their forests full of dead and dying trees.

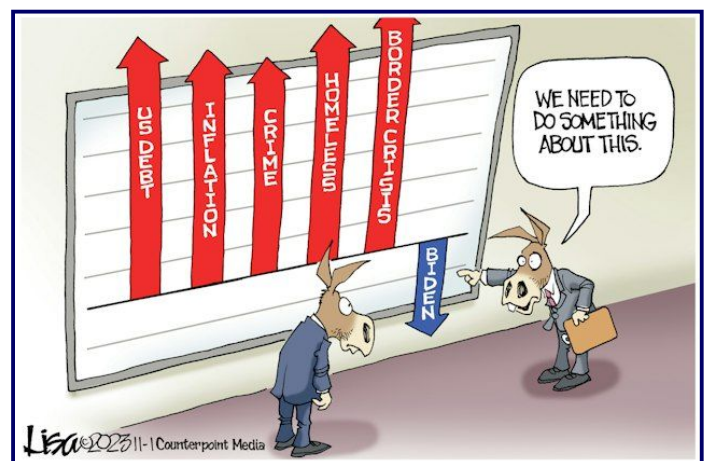
In contrast, in Nevada, the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District should be commended on the extensive work they have done to remove dead trees, underbrush, thin our forest floor growth, and create fire breaks. Over 1,200 acres have already been addressed in Incline Village, and their cooperation with local officials and homeowner groups will help increase the acreage that meets defensible space requirements. Fire-safe communities are better able to both retain insurance, as well as avoid the high increases in premiums that would otherwise occur.

Further, we recognize that a healthy timber industry is compatible with a healthy forest. Any of us who drive by the intersection of Route 50 and 395 in Carson can see the timber stacked and ready for a budding sawmill to turn into lumber. While it is unfortunate a 2022 major forest fire that touched South Lake Tahoe spurred the creation of this mill, it is encouraging to know that dead and dying trees in our nearby forests will be converted into useable products while increasing the sustainability of our state and national forestlands in Nevada.

Third, California's law that does not allow insurance companies to pass along to customers the costs of re-insurance further compounds the problem. Re-insurance is a back-up system that protects insurance companies from paying out more than they can afford. Is it no wonder that AIG and Chubb decided not to renew thousands of policies in California because of the State's laws and high fire risk. Nevada needs to retain a system that allows insurers to purchase re-insurance and share the cost with their clients.

Fourth, the California Environmental Quality Act and its plethora of regulations has resulted in virtually no new housing construction in California. The lack of housing supply has increased the cost of existing housing and property insurers have raised their rates accordingly. Added California burdens of using organized labor wage rates and adding in low-income housing components, means when they are finally approved, new housing developments are built at above market costs. We have seen similar burdens added by our Nevada counties and legislature to new housing projects. We tax-payers need to push back to ensure that the supply of housing in our State remains strong and keeps our existing homes both affordable and insurable.

So often, California has shown us what not to do in Nevada. Let's heed these lessons and remind those who have recently moved here from California why they need to respect "The Nevada Way."





What is “Question 3” - Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked choice voting is a system for counting votes that gives voters the option to rank their choices in order of preference. If a voter likes candidate A, and would prefer candidate B over candidate C if their favorite (candidate A) did not win, they could rank the three candidates accordingly on their ballot (A > B > C).



How do votes get counted in such a system? There are multiple methods, but the most common one is the “alternative vote.” During the alternative voting process, the candidate receiving a majority of first choice votes wins and the election is over. If no one wins a majority of votes, the ranked choices come into play using a computer program. In the most common form of ranked voting, the last-place candidate gets eliminated (i.e., the candidate with the fewest first choice votes), and the voters who chose that candidate as their first choice have their votes reallocated to their second choice. For example, if candidate A came in last place, the vote would go to candidate B. This process continues until a candidate achieves a majority of votes.

Why Not Use Ranked Choice Voting?

Some opponents of ranked choice voting dislike it for one of the same reasons its supporters promote it: it can weaken the far right or left wings of the two main political parties by diluting the power of very progressive or very conservative politicians and policies.

Complicated Process Results in Ballot

“Exhaustion” – Filling out a RCV ballot can confuse voters. If voters do not use all of their ranking choices this can lead to “ballot exhaustion” — a drop off in the total number of votes being

counted in the later rounds of counting, in essence, a ballot is cast but does not count toward the end election result.

Delayed Results - Another concern is the time it takes to count ranked choice ballots, which could lead to delayed results and a lack of confidence in the results.

Decreased Voter Turnout – A 2016 Cato Institute study examined voter turnout in five elections from 1995 to 2011 and found that the adoption of RCV decreased voter turnout.

Jungle Primaries – Any registered voter, regardless of party, can cast a vote for their preferred candidate. The top five candidates advance to the November general election. Yes, this gives Democrats the ability to affect the Republican candidates that go on to the general election. RCV is used as a justification by the left to “give all voters a chance to vote in the primary election. What they don’t tell you is that anyone CAN vote in the primary, party affiliation can be changed on the day of the vote by any voter to enable them to vote.

Many people feel that some cases RCV can lead to a person winning who doesn’t have majority support.

The Washoe County GOP is strongly AGAINST ranked choice voting. It is confusing, can cause significant delays in determining the outcome of an election, and can (and does) cause a number of votes to drop out if incomplete or completed incorrectly. The source of the software used to rank the choices is another concern – who writes the software code, how is an election “verified” or results “recounted”? If ranked choice voting is approved in 2024, many believe that there will never be another Republican elected in the state. In 2022 “Question 3” regarding ranked choice voting passed narrowly, most Republicans believe that the language of the question was written to confuse voters. Top contributors in favor of passing ranked choice voting were George and Alex Soros.



Newly-elected Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-La.) takes his oath of office at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on October 25, 2023.

How Mike Johnson Became Speaker “Through Prayer, Not Politics”

Eyebrows were raised when newly elected Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-La.) in his first address from the chair reminded the assembled Democratic and Republican members of the House of Representatives that the God of the Bible raised up each one of them for a purpose. “I want to tell all my colleagues here what I told the Republicans in that room last night: I don’t believe there are any coincidences in a matter like this. I believe that scripture, the Bible, is very clear that God is the one that raises up those in authority. He raised up each of you. All of us. And I believe that God has allowed and ordained each and every one of us to be here at this specific moment,” the Louisiana Republican said. He added, “This is my belief. I believe that each one of us has a huge responsibility today to use the gifts God has given us to serve the extraordinary people of this great nation, and they deserve it.”

Those who know Mr. Johnson, a devout conservative Southern Baptist, however, weren’t surprised by his allusion to verses in the Bible such as Daniel 2:21 that say the Creator raises up and deposes of political leaders: “He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.”

A former Louisiana state representative who is now serving in his fourth term in Congress, Mr. Johnson, 51, and his wife, Kelly, have four children. Before his remarkable rise to the speakership, Mr. Johnson had served as chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), which describes itself as “the intellectual arsenal of conservatism in the House.” In addition, he was elected in January 2021 to a second term as vice-chairman of the House Republican Conference and he was a deputy whip under then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.).

Prior to his political career, Mr. Johnson was the first member of his family to graduate from college, with a bachelor's in business administration from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1995 and a law degree from LSU’s Paul M. Herbert Law Center in 1998. He was elected president of the Christian Legal Society at LSU and subsequently became a successful constitutional law litigator.

In addition to his faith, Mr. Johnson is a classic Reagan conservative with a distinctly populist accent. On his official website is listed the congressman’s “Seven Core Principles of Conservatism.” Of that latter principle, Mr. Johnson explains: “Because all men are created equal and in the image of God, every human life has inestimable dignity and value, and every person should be measured only by the content of their character. A just government protects life, honors marriage and family as the primary institutions of a healthy society, and embraces the vital cultural influences of religion and morality. Public policy should always encourage education and emphasize the virtue of hard work as a pathway out of poverty, while public assistance programs should be reserved only for those who are truly in need. In America, everyone who plays by the rules should get a fair shot. By preserving these ideals, we will maintain the goodness of America that has been the secret to our greatness.”

Source: The Epoch Times, Oct 26, 2023, Updated: Oct 26, 2023, article by Mark Tapscott. Condensed for inclusion in The Elephant’s Tale.



Membership Application

New Member Renewing Membership

If you receive this application/renewal form via email, please print a copy and mail with your check to the address below.

NAME as it appears on VOTER REGISTRATION: _____

NAME as it appears on your NAMETAG: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS(es): _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

Home Phone with Area Code: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax Number: _____ Birthday (Month, Day) _____

Email address (for roster and newsletter):

Please print

MEMBERSHIP STATUS , PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- Active \$50, any woman registered as a Republican
- Associate \$20, any woman with a full membership in another Republican women's group,
- _____ OR any man registered as a Republican
- Primary Club Membership*

CHECK AREAS OF INTEREST:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art or Graphic Art Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter at Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |

MAIL APPLICATION AND CHECK to the following address:

Membership Chairman
IV/CB Republican Women
P. O. Box 3009, Incline Village, NV 89450

Always more information for you at our website: ivcbrw.org



Incline Village-Crystal Bay Republican Women Vision and Mission Statement

Vision: To support individual freedom and responsibility under the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence by making Nevada a Red state again and keeping it that way.

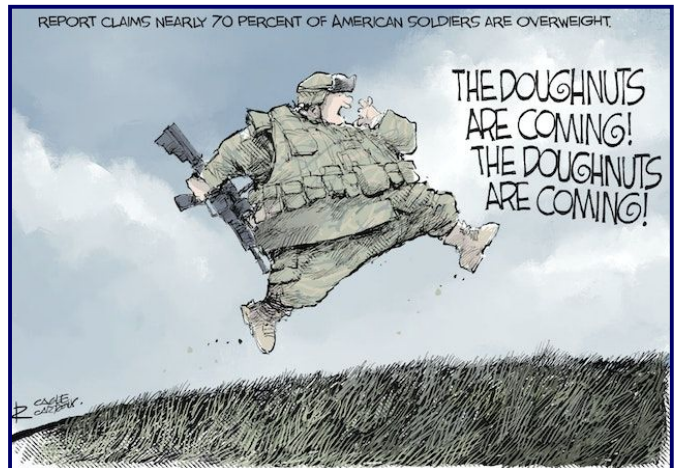
Mission: To promote the principles and philosophy of the Republican Party at the local, state, and federal levels by taking action to:

- Support the election of conservative Republican candidates.
- Educate club members and local voters.
- Communicate with local, state and federal legislative bodies to enact constitutional, conservative legislation.
- Collaborate with Nevada Republican Women's clubs to leverage best practices to improve club effectiveness.
- Promote Republican and conservative values through social media, print media, and community participation.
- Effect change in our schools to support conservative and constitutional values.
- Protect the integrity of local, state, and federal elections.

NOVEMBER Member Birthdays



Shirley Appel	3-Nov
Joan LeBlanc	3-Nov
Cretia Eyster	4-Nov
Barbara Pulver	5-Nov
Renee Saletta	10-Nov
Phyllis Westrup	12-Nov
Mary Felder	16-Nov
Khalmanie Pluckhan	16-Nov
Susan Homola	17-Nov
John Gunning	28-Nov
Kay Lehr	28-Nov



The Elephant's Tale

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The articles and opinions expressed within this newsletter were selected for their relevant content. The publishing of such articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions and practices of the Incline Village-Crystal Bay Republican Women.