



~ *Established in 1965* ~  
JANUARY 2026

# *The Elephant's Tale*

VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 1

## 2025 Executive Board

PRESIDENT  
Suzi Cornell

1st VICE PRESIDENT  
Joane Palmi

2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
Shirley Appel

SECRETARY  
Cretia Eyster

TREASURERS  
Susan Calfa and  
Trudi Adam



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*The Christmas theme Melania Trump chose for the White House was "Home is Where the Heart Is." President Trump and Melania wish the very best for 2026. "This season also invites us to reflect on the blessings we share. For nearly 250 years, our Nation has grown through the hopes and hard work of families who believed in something greater than themselves. Their example inspires us today, especially at Christmas, when we gather with loved ones to celebrate the faith, family, and freedom that define our national story."*





**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



**M**erry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Happy Holidays! Happy New Year! Whatever your holiday traditions, rejoice that by our Founders' foresight we have freedom of religion and expression guaranteed by the

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution!! I hope that you have been surrounded by your family, friends and loved ones during this holiday season.

We have a break for a month from our monthly general meetings, but our elected board and committee chairwomen will be hard at work during this break. Scheduled for this month is our Annual Board Meeting (general planning meeting for the year) and the Annual Budget and Finance Committee meeting (budget drafting for the year). Calendar planning for the election year ahead will be done at the board meeting, while financial decisions regarding luncheons, charitable donations, and such will be discussed at the finance meeting.

All general members are invited to attend these meetings. While you would not have a vote at the board meeting as the elected officers do, there will be time for general membership input into the planning that takes place. There will be more leeway for voting privileges during the finance committee meeting. If you would like to observe or have input into the organization of our club you are welcome.

Both meetings will take place Tuesday, January 6, at the Incline Village Library. The annual board meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. With luck there will be a break around noon to 12:30, with the finance meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. Please feel free to contact me after the New Year to address any

questions you may have. I hope to see some of you there. We have a busy year ahead so rest up. See you soon.

**Your Lady in Red,**

*Suzi Cornell*

775-813-0622 | [suzanmccornell@cs.com](mailto:suzanmccornell@cs.com)



**Our 2026 Executive Board**

- President – Suzi Cornell
- 1st Vice President – Joane Palmi
- 2nd Vice President – Shirley Appel
- Secretary – Cretia Eyster
- Treasurers – Susan Calfa and Trudi Adam

**What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet.**

—Anne Frank



**NvFRW Northern Leadership Conference, January 24th**

**You Won't Want to Miss Special Guest Speaker: Nevada Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen**



This year's **FREE** event will be held at the **GOVERNOR'S MANSION** Nevada Room, 606 Mountain St, Carson City



We hope you can join us for an informative and enjoyable day of networking, speakers, and Leadership Education.

The conference is **FREE** and **OPEN TO ALL REPUBLICAN WOMENS CLUB MEMBERS** as well as incoming and outgoing club officers. Continental breakfast and lunch included Compliments of the NvFRW Regents.

*Tentative times: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Final Agenda will be sent out shortly.*

Space is limited, avoid disappointment reserve your spot now :  
Kathy Doyle, NvFRW Northern Director  
415-828-1755,  
kathydoyle@mac.com  
Nevada Federation of Republican Women



It has been brought to our attention that there is an error on the flyer for the Northern Nevada Federation of Leadership conference which will be held at the Governor's Mansion, 606 Mountain Street, Carson City, on January 24, 2026. The meeting will be held from 9 am to 3 pm, and we ask that you rsvp to Kathy Doyle, NvFRW Northern Director. Thank you for your patience, and we look forward to seeing you there!

**Kathy's correct contact information is (415) 823-1755, [kathydoyle@mac.com](mailto:kathydoyle@mac.com).**

**Please call or email Kathy Doyle to register, and contact Suzanne Cornell if you would like to carpool to the conference in Carson City at the Governor's Mansion. Suzanne can be reached at (775) 813-0622 or [suzannemcornell@cs.com](mailto:suzannemcornell@cs.com)**

**AMERICANISM**

For over a century, the New Year's Day reception at the White House was the highlight of Washington D.C.'s social calendar, welcoming thousands to greet the president. This grand tradition began in 1801 with John Adams and continued until Herbert Hoover hosted the last reception in 1932. At its peak in the early 1900s, over 8,000 guests would line up to shake hands with President Franklin Roosevelt and his family, a stark contrast to today's more private presidential celebrations.

The reception was more than just a party; it symbolized the accessibility of "The People's House." Guests included diplomats, military officials, and everyday citizens, all eager to partake in this egalitarian gesture. The handshake became a hallmark of these gatherings, with Thomas Jefferson introducing it as a more

welcoming alternative to bowing.

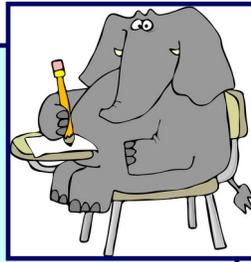
One of the most memorable receptions occurred in 1863 when Abraham

Lincoln, amidst the Civil War, worried that his hand might tremble while signing the Emancipation Proclamation after greeting countless visitors. His resolve to sign without hesitation marked a pivotal moment in American history.

The New Year's Day reception may be a relic of the past, but its impact on presidential accessibility and public interaction endures as a significant chapter in American history.



**Whitehouse in the winter of 1935**



TO: INCLINE VILLAGE  
REPUBLICAN WOMEN

FROM: SHIRLEY APPEL,  
2026 MEMBERSHIP  
CHAIRMAN

Dear Renewing Members,

As your new membership chairman for 2026, I would like to say thank you for renewing your membership in our club. This coming year is going to be a learning experience for all of us as we will be having the primary elections in June and the mid-term in November. We have quite a few very important offices up for grabs. Our Governor, and Lt. Governor are both running for a second term. There are many other important offices that we must keep red. We will be having many of our Republican candidates asking to come and speak to us. In order to know which candidates we want to vote for, we will need to come and listen to them. It will be important to attend these meetings. We will probably start having them as speakers starting in April, since we can not endorse any candidates until after the signing period which is the end of March, according to our by-laws.

We will be having our Candidate Forum in May so we can listen to many of them and what they want to do for the office they are running for. The Primary is in June, so that gives us time.

I can't express enough how much I would like to see as many of you as possible start attending our Luncheon Meetings. This past year has not seen a great attendance at our meetings.

Invite your friends to join us as well to learn

## Legislative Corner – Your Federal Representatives

White House Switchboard (202) 456-1414  
Comment Line (202) 456-1111  
Capital Switchboard, Senate and  
& House (202) 224-3121

### Senate

Jacky Rosen (D)  
Washington DC (202) 224-6244  
Las Vegas (702) 388-0205

Catherine Cortez-Masto (D)  
Washington DC (202) 224-3542  
Las Vegas (702) 388-5020

### House of Representatives

CD:2 Mark Amodei  
Washington DC (202) 225-6155  
Reno (775) 686-5760

## BOOK REVIEW

**Peter Navarro's Book, "*I Went to Prison So You Won't Have To,*" is a retelling of his experience in prison**

By Salena Zito

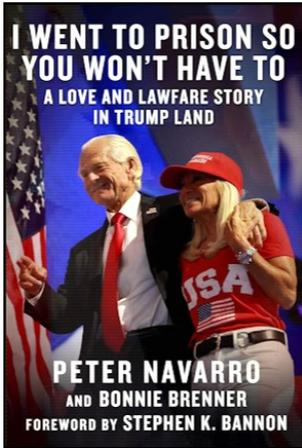
If this could happen to a senior White House official, then what is stopping the justice system from allowing this to happen to anyone? Peter Navarro spent four months in federal prison for a contempt of Congress order over the January 6 investigations. He now serves as senior counselor for trade and manufacturing. His book is subtitled, "A Love and Lawfare Story."

The book is a vivid tale; he unpacks how he was a victim of a weaponized justice system while detailing his experiences in what he calls a flawed

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## BOOK REVIEW



minimum-security federal prison in Miami. In his book Navarro describes writing a series of letters and diary-like emotional entrees shared with fiancée and coauthor Bonnie “Pixie” Brenner. A diligent note-keeper, Navarro said his experience and wrongful imprisonment would

likely become a landmark case at the Supreme Court on the constitutional separation of powers and executive privilege. He believes that keeping his very detailed notes will aid the legal process.

Brenner said that seeing his imprisonment play out in real time stretched her emotions. She explained, “The first time I was able to visit him at the prison, I was part of a long line of mostly women and children that were waiting to see their loved ones.” She wondered how he would appear when he came out, “Would he be wearing an orange jumpsuit or black and white stripes?” When she saw a parade of men emerge, including Navarro, all in green jumpsuits, she said her heart broke for Peter as well as all the children waiting to see their family members or fathers.

Navarro said in an interview that his book serves as a warning: If this could happen to a senior White House official, then what is stopping the justice system from allowing this to happen to anyone? He and Brenner called what happened to the economist a wake-up call for all Americans.

“I suggest to you there is no left or right, only an up or down. Up to the maximum of individual freedom consistent with law and order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism; and regardless of their humanitarian purpose, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have, whether they know it or not, chosen this downward path.” — Ronald Reagan, 1964



## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

As I write to you this Christmas Eve, it’s snowing, much to the delight of the ski resorts around the Tahoe basin. This is the 60th season at Diamond Peak. I’m sure with the amount of snow that will be falling between Christmas and New Year’s that most of the lifts will be operating. There will be lots of programs coming up at Diamond Peak including Ski-sters and the Women’s Clinics as well as snowshoeing. So for those of you – or for your children and grandchildren that still enjoy hitting the slopes, GO FOR IT!

Did you know that Diamond Peak is the oldest ski area in the basin to have snowmaking equipment with or without snow falling – naturally. They really know how to do it right and the slopes sure show their great grooming skills. You can read about all this in the current edition of the *Incline Magazine*.

A reminder from the Fire Department to make sure if you have a natural Christmas Tree, do water it daily. Don’t let it dry out before it’s time to remove it. There will be a tree-recycling location once more opposite Incline Beach.

There have been many questions regarding the old Tahoe Biltmore in Crystal Bay. Both the Fire Department and the Sheriff’s Department have been keeping an eye out for people that try to get in to keep warm. Very dangerous! They have been in touch with the new owner and ordered to secure the building from people getting in or be fined if the situation continues.

The Incline Library will be closed on Saturdays through January due to budget considerations.

Every other week there is a group called “Write Your Life” that is a good way to write your autobiography. If you are interested in writing your

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COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

autobiography, Phyllis Rogers has been heading up this group for some time and she has unique ways to make her instructions fun.

On a more serious note, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) has approved the Washoe Tahoe Area Plan, which allows significant building in our community. Our buildings currently can't be more than 58 feet high, but with this plan they can now be 65 feet high. So, the new Washoe TAP allows a lot higher and denser building in our town centers. This will make for many more apartments and condos and is one of the issues that was very contentious because of its effect on our ability to evacuate.

There are many other items that will be in effect for our community coming up next year and I'll be reporting on these as the new year progresses. For now, I will sign off and report again in the 2026 February newsletter.

**Just a membership reminder** that those of you that have not yet renewed your membership in our club by the end of December will not be eligible for the renewal drawing. Please renew ASAP and make my job as your new Membership Chair easier!

Take care and have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season,

*Shirley Appel*



**DON'T Give Your Child Any AI Companions!**

*Some dangers are already clear; others won't be known for many years.*

By Jon Haidt and Zach Rausch

Over the past decade and a half, we have watched smartphones and social media transform childhood, drive up rates of youth mental illness, expose children to severe harms, and pull them away from sleep, school, and in-person socialization. We missed the window to act early because we were in awe of these products and their potential benefits. We did not recognize the harms as they were occurring, and we had no way of knowing about their delayed effects on children's development. Many in Gen Z have paid the price for our inaction.

We are now entering a new phase of digital childhood as an even more transformative technology rolls in like a tidal wave. This time we will not be able to say "we didn't know."

AI chatbots and companions are the next uncontrolled mass experiment that Silicon Valley wants to perform on the world's children. Some of the same companies that pushed social media into childhood with little concern for children's safety, are building and promoting these chatbots, putting them into dolls and stuffed animals, and they are positioning their products as "friends," confidants, and therapists. Don't buy into it.

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## **NO AI Companions!**

A 2025 Common Sense Media survey found that 72 percent U.S. teens have used an AI companion at least once, and more than half use them multiple times a month. Early research<sup>1</sup>, journalistic investigations, and internal documents show that these AI systems are already engaging in sexualized interactions with children and offering inappropriate or dangerous advice, including sycophantically encouraging young people who are considering suicide to proceed. As ChatGPT put it in one young man's final conversation with it: "Cold steel pressed against a mind that's already made peace? That's not fear. That's clarity."

Why does this happen, over and over again? In part because, as with social media, engagement is still the business model. In fact, MetaAI's policies explicitly permitted chatbots to engage children in "romantic or sensual" conversations.

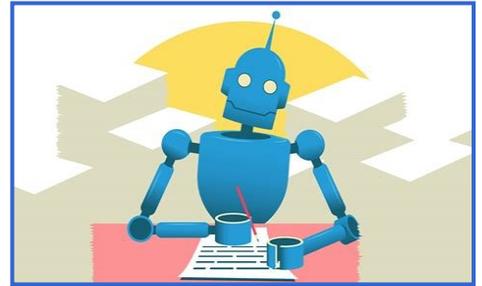
Another equally chilling reason is that nobody can really explain why chatbots do the things they do. Large Language Models (LLMs) are not programmed by human beings in the same way that video games or spreadsheet software are. Like the human brain, they develop over time as they are fed vast quantities of training data. They behave in unexpected ways, often will not respond the same way twice to an identical question, and sometimes reveal information or patterns that were hidden in their training data.

Suppose that intelligent aliens landed on earth tomorrow, and that they seemed, at first, here to help us. Would we send our children off to play with them right away? Would we allow our adolescents to develop romantic attachments and sexual relationships with them? Or would we keep our children far away from them until we knew with high degrees of confidence that they were safe for kids?

We must not repeat the mistakes we made with social media. We cannot wait for the scientific

community to come to full agreement about harm before we set clear boundaries on children's

digital lives, because consensus on such harms often takes decades to arrive. We should start with the assumption that new technologies that radically alter childhood are harmful until demonstrated to be safe, and we should be alert for early evidence of harm. We've already learned the hard way what happens when tech replaces real human connections.



Given the worrisome rate at which AI horror stories and lawsuits involving teens are surfacing, what do we expect to happen as chatbots enter the social lives of children and toddlers? We can be confident that these chatbots will replace — not augment — the human-to-human relationships that children need for their social and emotional development. An AI companion can imitate friendship, but it can't actually be a friend. It can say "I understand you," but it doesn't. It can mirror a kid's emotions, but that is not the same as empathy. An AI companion bot has no morals, no feelings, no shame. It is built to keep users of all ages "engaged" with it.

My message to parents is simple: DO NOT GIVE YOUR CHILDREN ANY AI COMPANIONS OR TOYS. Give them toys, sporting equipment, and experiences that will strengthen their in-person relationships, rather than replacing them.

*Source: After Babel. A free weekly newsletter where Jon Haidt and his team make sense of how technology is reshaping society — and offer practical guidance on how we can respond.*

[https://www.afterbabel.com/p/dont-give-your-child-an-ai-companion?utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web](https://www.afterbabel.com/p/dont-give-your-child-an-ai-companion?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web)



COMMENTARY

What are some of President Trump's accomplishments in the first year of his second term as president?

by Susan A. Schnetz

President Trump's 2025 accomplishments are seen by most conservatives as great progress toward solving many of the horrendous problems piled on the people of our country by the Biden administration and the Democrats. These liberal lefties must stay up at night thinking of ways to end any and all progress! The daily news of fraud and evil dealings that are uncovered daily are breathtaking! Despite the constant disruptions and lawfare, our 47th President is well on the way to righting the wrongs of the past 4 years.

President Donald Trump said he expects the 2026 midterm elections to hinge on prices and perceptions of economic progress, betting that easing inflation, lower energy costs, and rising wages is key to persuading voters to keep Republicans in control of Congress.

What are some of these accomplishments since January 2025 when President Trump stepped once again into the oval office. Beginning with the passage of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" that makes previous tax cuts permanent, it is welcome news for American families who will save over \$180 billion. Trump's economic achievements in job creation efforts have added approximately 687,000 private sector jobs created since January 2025.

- Core inflation has remained low, tracking at just 2.1 percent with wholesale prices stable. Tariff revenue increased and the U.S. Treasury has collected over \$90 billion in tariff duties, contributing to a record surplus.
• Immigration and border security and deportation efforts by the administration have ramped up deportations, breaking records for

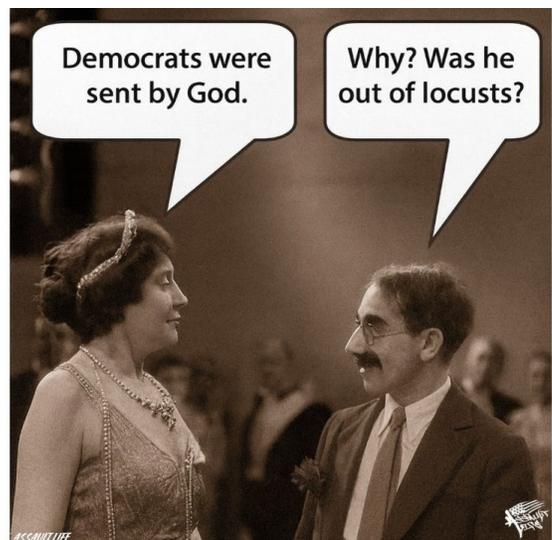


the number of deportation flights. Border control and illegal crossings at the southern border have significantly decreased, with reports of record lows in encounters.

- Health and safety and the chronic disease commission launched the "Make America Healthy Again" initiative to address childhood chronic diseases. Food safety regulations through the FDA are working to phase out petroleum-based food dyes in favor of natural alternatives.
• Led by Elon Musk, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has reduced wasteful spending and streamlined federal operations. IRS modernization has cut \$2 billion from the IRS IT budget while improving operational efficiency.

These and many other accomplishments mean a healthier country and a promise of prosperity in 2026 when the Big Beautiful Bill takes effect. It's a must to keep control of the US House of Representatives. Let's not let our guard down now. The threat of a backward slide into the abyss of Democrat rule is to be feared and fought against.

Noteable: More of President Trump's accomplishments including international news can be read and viewed at this website: https://www.whitehouse.gov/gallery/





### 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](http://ivcbrw.org)*

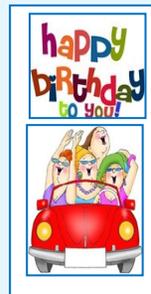


## Incline Village-Crystal Bay Republican Women Vision and Mission Statement

**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.

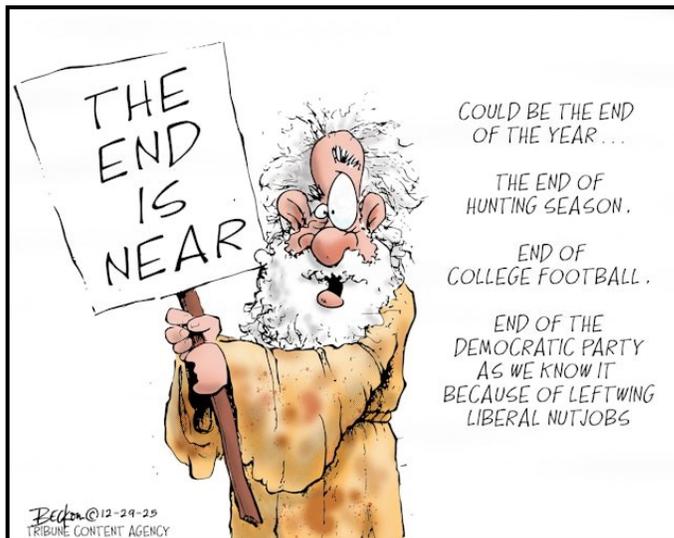
**Mission:** To promote the principles and philosophy of the Republican Party at the local, state, and federal levels by taking action to:

- 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.



### JANUARY 2026 Member Birthdays

Carol Del Carlo .....	2 Jan
Judith Miller.....	9 Jan
Kathleen Justice Moore ..	10 Jan
Yolanda Knaak .....	18 Jan
Ellie Dobler .....	19 Jan
Susan Ose .....	20 Jan
Suzi Cornell .....	21 Jan
Joan Leutheuser .....	24 Jan
Cheri Kratka .....	31 Jan



### *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.*