



# THE ELEPHANT'S TRUMPET

THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER OF A DIAMOND AWARD CLUB!  
A Publication of the West Valley Republican Women Federated  
Founded in 1952



Affiliated with the California Federation of Republican Women,  
Chartered by the National Federation of Republican Women

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August 2022

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**CFRW Region 3**

**Director**

Bunny Hacker  
[Bunny328@reagan.com](mailto:Bunny328@reagan.com)

## NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 18, 2022

### SPECIAL MEETING FEATURING:

#### “FATHER STU”

A biographical film produced by and starring Mark Wahlberg. Father Stu is an inspirational film based on the life of Stuart Ignatius Long. A football player in his younger years, Long became a Golden Gloves heavyweight and graduated Carroll College with a degree in English Lit and Writing. This film is only a small glimpse into his journey from regular guy to Father Stu.

\*\*\* Three Flames \*\*\*

1547 Meridian Ave.

San Jose CA 95125

11:30am - Check In

12:00am - Call to Order

\*\*\* Cost of Program: \$32 \*\*\*

See \*\*\* notes \*\*\* on Page 2

*Includes a delicious lunch, soft drink, coffee or tea and dessert! (taxes & gratuities also included)*

### MENU OPTIONS:

#### SHRIMP LOUIE SALAD

*Lettuce greens, tomato, hard-boiled egg & fresh bay shrimp, served w/Louie dressing*

#### MASTACIOLLI PASTA

*Penne Pasta in a sun-dried tomato cream sauce with basil, spinach, garlic & feta, served w/House salad*

#### CHICKEN PARMESAN

*Breaded chicken breast cutlet topped w/Marinara & melted cheese; served w/House salad, seasonal vegetables*

\*\*\* RSVP a.s.a.p. & before August 11<sup>th</sup>! \*\*\*

Call Grace, 408-499-1695

A check can be mailed to: Grace Russo,  
2393 Karen Dr. #3 - Santa Clara, CA 95050

Make Check payable to West Valley RWF.

**Lunches must be pre-ordered 1 week in advance;  
a reservation made is a reservation paid!**

## STANDING COMMITTEES

*Achievement Awards*  
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*Phone Tree*  
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*Publicity/Social Media*  
Bunny Hacker

*Voter Registration*  
Susan Tsolinas

\*\*\*

## Special Committees:

**Membership Growth:**  
Members will serve with our 2nd VP JoAnn Destro to help with engagement, mailings, etc.

**Legislation:** we need 1-2 members to follow and report at our meetings on the legislative items that are posted as CFRW Capitol Updates on <https://cfrw.org>, and many of which are printed in our newsletters.

**Call now - volunteer!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**SHANNON WAGNER**  
West Valley RWF President

Tragic news...in the early morning hours of July 27<sup>th</sup>, Holder's Country Inn was gutted by fire. Holder's has been our monthly meeting venue for over 20 years. Their owners and employees have generously accommodated our various meeting needs with the friendliest service for all these years. Our hearts go out to them as their lives are upended due to this fire. It reportedly started in their kitchen. Thankfully, no one was inside as it happened when the restaurant was closed, and no one was hurt. For the next couple days, the search was on, and we've been lucky to find space on the calendar with Three Flames as a temporary new venue for our meetings.

For those that missed it, our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was a fabulous event! Our Hospitality Chair, Grace Russo, really pulled out all of the stops in putting the event together. With the help of JoAnn Destro and Robin McCarthy, no detail was spared. From the twinkling balloon bouquets, to the floating candles, beautifully wrapped handmade chocolate covered Oreo cookies commemorating our 70<sup>th</sup> at each place setting, delicious dinner and celebration cake...the room sparkled with elegance and everyone had a wonderful time. Bunny Hacker gave a wonderful presentation on the history of our club and the forming of our California Federation to which we belong. Our Historian, Christine Austin-Walker put together a series of memory boards to display our history in pictures. Our keynote speaker, Lt. Scott Bennett, gave us an eye-opening presentation pulling the curtain back on the corruption in the U.S. Government. If you missed it, (and even if you didn't) you'll want to be sure and purchase his book "Shell Game" for all the details. Many thanks to all the generous sponsors and to our board of directors for their elegant raffle basket contributions and help in making the event the magnificent success that it was.

Warm regards  
-Shannon Wagner

## \*\*\* CHANGE IS TOUGH, BUT WE'RE TOUGHER \*\*\*

With our event for August all planned and ready to go, we heard the tragic news that our long-loved venue had been lost to a fire that gutted the restaurant and left Efrain and his wonderful staff out of business. As the old saying goes, when the going gets tough, the tough get going – and that's just what our hospitality hostess Grace Russo, our President and Executive Committee did. The search was on to obtain a venue that offered us a private room, plenty of parking, easy/level access, reasonable prices and a menu of 3 options each month. That's a lot to ask!

We are fortunate that Grace Russo & JoAnn Destro each have a prior relationship with the management & ownership of the Three Flames because everywhere else we contacted couldn't come close to meeting our needs and Annie at the Flames was happy to help!

Yes, our costs went up as we expected they would – Efrain gave us a great deal, partly out of his gratitude to us frequenting Holder's during the pandemic which helped him keep his doors open. No other group got the deal we did, and no other venue can afford to give us that deal, as everything has skyrocketed in costs, as we all well know. We hope the addition of a dessert will sweeten the news of the higher cost.

One other change we need to get used to, and that is to ***call in our food order 1 week in advance***. That's more lead time than we're used to, but we need to make this work; please honor the requested rsvp "due by" date. Hint: pre-book your calendar on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month to "call in rsvp" for your lunch – and "WVRWF lunch meeting" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month so you never miss out! Thank you all for your understanding and resilience – it's what Republican Women do!



## **With FBI Looking Ever More Corrupt, Director Wray Should Feel the Heat**

*by Quin Hillyer, Commentary Writer – washingtonexaminer.com - July 27, 2022*

Major problems at a heavily politicized FBI predated the June 2017 ascension of Christopher Wray to the bureau's directorship, but Wray has no excuse for failing to fix them in the five years since.

If there is truth to even a significant portion of the allegations in a July 25 letter from Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) to Wray and Attorney General Merrick Garland, a corrupt subculture continues to exist, without effective rebuke, in some major ranks of the FBI. Grassley wrote that numerous whistleblower reports indicate Timothy Thibault, the assistant special agent in charge of the Washington field office, along with Supervisory Intelligence Analyst Brian Auten, and others, combined to help cover up apparent "derogatory information connected to Hunter Biden," the now-president's son.

Grassley says Auten and others falsely labeled the Biden material as "disinformation," presumably of Russian origin, and that Thibault not only ordered inquiries into other derogatory information about the younger Biden closed, quite wrongly, but also "attempted to improperly mark the matter in FBI systems so that it could not be opened in the future."

Auten already had made significant errors that contributed to the bogus allegations that then-candidate Donald Trump had conspired with Russian agents to help him win the 2016 presidential election. And Grassley in May had accused Thibault, completely apart from the Biden matter, of "likely violations of Federal laws, regulations, and [FBI] guidelines ... based on a pattern of active public partisanship in his then-public social media content." Grassley also said these agents or others deliberately tried to undermine ongoing Senate investigations, led by Grassley, into numerous suspicious activities of Hunter Biden and other Biden family members.

"The FBI inquiry into Hunter Biden reportedly began as a tax investigation," reported the Washington Examiner's Jerry Dunleavy, "then expanded into a scrutiny of potential money-laundering and foreign lobbying." Evidence from the younger Biden's laptop also suggests he may have broken federal drug laws and human trafficking laws.

Meanwhile, Grassley said "the volume and consistency of these [whistleblower] allegations substantiate their credibility" and that they and other reports indicate that the Justice Department and FBI are "institutionally corrupted to their very core," with "systemic and existential problems within your agencies."

What's worse is that the alleged and apparent impropriety of FBI agents regarding the interconnected Biden-Trump-Russia imbroglios seems to be only one part of the FBI's malfeasance. Reports emerged in March that a 2019 internal FBI audit found FBI agents broke the rules at least 747 times in just a year and a half in high-profile investigations — and even that audit covered less than half of FBI matters listed as "sensitive" during the relevant time period.

Also in March, Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Nancy Mace (R-SC) asked the Governmental Accountability Office to review the FBI's use of certain surveillance activities because the lawmakers had information suggesting the bureau was involved in "improper monitoring of protected First Amendment activity."

Despite all this evidence of laxity and corruption, there is little attestation that the FBI has taken significant disciplinary steps against any of its errant personnel. When Wray took over the FBI, he had a stellar reputation, but after five years, there is almost no indication that he has righted the bureau's ship. Grassley has every good reason to suspect that corruption in large parts of the FBI is "systemic and existential."

The situation at the FBI is unacceptable. Period. If Wray cannot prove by year's end that he has taken major, effective steps to fix it, he should lose his job.



*Article submitted by Kathie Topham*



## Capitol Update



Submitted by the CFRW Legislative Analyst Committee  
*LouAnn Flaherty, Elaine Freeman, Theresa Speake and Karen Contreras*

*Comments/Questions on any legislation you've heard about? E-mail: [legislativeanalysts@cfrw.org](mailto:legislativeanalysts@cfrw.org)*

### QUALIFIED BALLOT MEASURE FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION:

#### **Proposition 29**

*Official Title: Requires On-Site Licensed Medical Professional at Kidney Dialysis Clinics and Establishes Other State Requirements. Initiative Statute*

This statute would establish staffing and reporting requirements, require ownership disclosure, and prohibit dialysis clinics (DC) from closing or reducing services without state approval.

- Staffing: requires on-site licensed medical professional, e.g., physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Telehealth may be used during staffing shortage
- Reporting: dialysis-related infections data must be reported to the state
- Ownership: all persons and physicians' ownership of the dialysis clinic >5% must be disclosed to patients
- Service reduction or closure: the state must approve any substantial reduction in services or closure of the dialysis center
- Clinics may not refuse treatment based on the source of payment

Fiscal impact: Increased state and local government costs between \$229 million and \$445 million.

#### Background:

In California, nearly 80,000 people receive dialysis treatments at local hospitals and dialysis centers. Various entities own and operate DCs, both not-for-profit and for-profit. Two multinational, for-profit corporations operate or manage seventy-five percent of the dialysis clinics in the state. Kidney dialysis is big business.

The more than 600 clinics employ thousands of workers and therein lies the impetus for SEIU-UHW involvement in "dialysis reform." The aforementioned requirements are varied in scope and in practice and deserve critical consideration.

The cost of mandating a physician within the clinic during business hours will significantly increase the cost of treatment, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, not so much. Increased operating costs can lead to clinics closing or merging with other clinics in higher population areas.

Unlike acute-care and specialty hospitals, physicians are allowed to form a partnership with a for-profit dialysis corporation. A physician who owns a stake in a dialysis clinic may also be serving as the kidney patient's nephrologist or primary doctor which, according to initiative proponents Fleming and Everhart (SEIU-UHW), creates a conflict of interest.

*Continues on next page...*

*Capitol Update continued....*

Previous ballot initiatives were sponsored by the Californians for Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection in 2018 (Prop 8) and 2020 (Prop 23). There is conflict between SEIU-UHW and the state's two largest dialysis businesses, DaVita and Fresenius. SEIU is open about attempts to unionize the dialysis workers and blames the dialysis companies for the failure to unionize. As an aside, it has been noted in the Sacramento Bee and the LA Times that the ballot initiative, if it passes, could also pave the way for increased legislative leverage by SEIU-UHW.

**Support:** paid for by the PAC Californians for Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection: supported by SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West for \$3.5 million. Signatures submitted by Sean Fleming and Jonathan Everhart, higher-paid employees of SEIU-UHW.

**Opposition:** paid for by PAC Stop Yet Another Dangerous Dialysis Proposition for \$2.2 million (donors DaVita and Fresenius).

**Summary:**

Prop 29 should be familiar to voters since it has been rejected by the voters twice before, in 2018 and 2020. So, why does it keep appearing on the ballot? It is difficult to believe that labor unions have become the dialysis patient's advocate. New and costly regulations would hardly benefit the interests of the patient. Prop 29 is supported by the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers west and opposed by the Stop Yet another Dangerous Dialysis Proposition, a coalition PAC of doctors, nurses, dialysis patients, caregivers, and dialysis corporations. Every healthcare industry uses continuing quality improvement metrics to deliver good healthcare and, certainly, every sector of healthcare can improve services. In California, oversight is provided by the California Department of Public Health and CMS. However, one needs to be mindful of the reputations of the proponents and opponents of this initiative.

\* \* \* \* \*

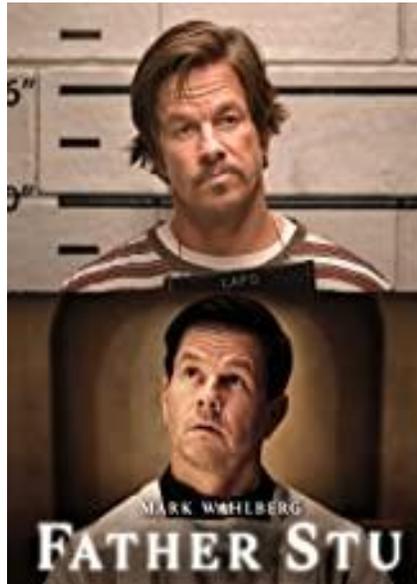
**Find/contact your local Legislators**, click [HERE](#) to inquire, or let them know your opinion about bills or issues. To contact your U.S. Representatives, call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.



# “FATHER STU”

On August 18, 2022, at our General Meeting we will be showing the film “Father Stu”!

AUGUST  
16<sup>th</sup>



JOIN  
US!

**Father Stu** is a 2022 biographical drama film written and directed by Rosalind Ross in her directorial debut. The film stars Mark Wahlberg, who also produces, as Stuart Long, a boxer-turned-Catholic priest suffering from inclusion body myositis, a rare muscular disease similar to Lou Gehrig's disease which has no cure and typically does not strike people as young as he is. The film stars Mark Wahlberg as Father Stuart "Stu" Long, Jacki Weaver as Kathleen Long, Stu's mother, and Mel Gibson as William "Bill" Long, Stu's estranged father.

**REMINDER: YOU MUST RSVP TO THIS MEETING  
BY AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> TO RESERVE A SPOT!**



## GLOBAL ELITES' FANTASY THREATENS HUMANITY

*An environmentalist group is buying up U.S. farmland...to not farm it*

*By Thomas Gallatin – patriotpost.us – August 1, 2022*

Recently, our own Douglas Andrews [observed](#) that the globalist agenda known as the “Great Reset” was not some harebrained conspiracy theory espoused by a tinfoil hat-wearing Reddit group. It is indeed a fact, and it’s happening even in places like Montana.

Andrews noted that the globalist elites promoting the Great Reset envision a world based upon a socialist system in which these “educated elites” make the decisions for the rest of mankind. A world in which private property rights and individual liberty are eliminated. A world in which the elite “expert” class sets the rules for the rest of humanity. Of course, the claim of this globalist vision is that of a utopia where no one is left in want. Simply put, the Great Reset is Marxism repackaged.

At the root of all the world’s different movements is an ideology that attempts to define reality. The problem is that some ideologies such as Marxism have proven to produce anything but their claimed utopian vision. Indeed, what the Bolsheviks of the Russian revolution, the Maoists of the Chinese Communist revolution, and all Marxist-inspired revolutionaries have in common is that they all promise that the implementation of radical socialist governmental systems will solve the problem of inequity. And all they ever do is lead to massive human suffering and destruction, ironically with a small group of elites ruling and living like kings.

Many Americans believe such a Marxist-inspired revolution can never happen here in America, the land of the free. Americans are famous for being lovers of individual liberty and are fiercely independent; they wouldn’t fall for the empty promises of socialism. Right? That may be true when socialism is presented stripped of any guise designed to make it look reasonable. But that’s exactly the problem — the proponents of socialism are rarely honest about what they’re pushing.

They have to find an issue, and then exploit it using a lot of assertions that lack any genuine support to convince people that rule by elites is the best way forward. This is the impetus behind those pushing the problem of climate change. Drastic action must be taken to “save” the planet, we’re told, and this drastic action boils down to taking away individual freedom and eliminating a free-market economy in favor of a world centralized authority run by a group of “educated” elites. It’s the Great Reset.

But as noted above, this reset doesn’t happen overnight or even conspicuously; it disguises and wraps itself in a “good cause.” One such example comes from the state of Montana, where a group of elites has been steadily pursuing an agenda to effectively turn massive amounts of America’s farmland and ranch land into wilderness.

Over 20 years ago, the American Prairie Foundation was established with the goal of creating the largest “fully functioning ecosystem” within the continental U.S. Since then, the group of environmentalists funded by billionaires both inside and outside of the U.S. has been aggressively buying up farms and ranches in North Central Montana with the goal of eventually creating a 3.5 million-acre wildlife preserve.

“Our mission is to assemble the largest complex of public and private lands devoted to wildlife in the lower 48,” American Prairie Reserve Vice President Pete Geddes explained. “For comparison, about 25% larger than Yellowstone.” That vision is to effectively see the recreation of the American West prior to the pioneers, a land free from man’s agrarian pursuits — i.e., farms and ranches.

The group has thus far purchased some 118,000 acres of private land and leased another 334,000 acres of public land, much of it owned by the federal government. On the surface, this may seem like a good thing, though when one starts to drill into the worldview behind the AP’s publicly expressed vision, it becomes quickly apparent that at its root is anti-humanism.

Montana state government officials have begun [ringing the alarm bells](#), noting that the AP’s plan results in what Montana Department of Agriculture Director Christy Clark warned is the removal of “large chunks of land from production agriculture.” State Attorney General Austin Knudsen called it “flatly illegal.” Knudsen explained: “This is federal land that is specifically — by the Taylor Grazing Act, by federal law — set aside for livestock grazing. Bison are not livestock, even under federal law.” He adds: “That’s the part that everyone just seems to be ignoring here. AP doesn’t want to admit that, certainly the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Interior don’t want to admit that. But that’s just the fact.” AP aims to create the “American Serengeti” where “liberal coastal elites can come and hang out and look at the pretty animals.”

If this sounds eerily like something out of Aldous Huxley’s *A Brave New World*, it’s because that’s essentially the worldview and vision animating the globalist elites who have bought into the Great Reset. It’s the same vision that caused [farmers in the Netherlands](#) to rise in protest directed at the government’s imposition of new nitrogen emissions rules in the name of saving the planet — rules that will effectively kill their farms. This is the same worldview that led to Sri Lanka’s government to ban chemical fertilizers that has led to massive farm failures and a population staring at a food crisis.

At the root of the Great Reset is an ideology that is fundamentally elitist and anti-human. ◆

## WEST VALLEY RWF

c/o Bunny Hacker  
55 Church St., #1301  
Los Gatos, CA 95030-6922

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Please note new venue – Three Flames, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose, CA 95125**

- August 3 Board Meeting at the home of Kathie Topham, 10:00am
- August 18 West Valley RWF lunch meeting w/“Father Stu”, 11:30-1:30
- September 5 LABOR DAY
- September 15 West Valley RWF lunch meeting w/**DR. GLORIA HOM** on “Ballot Measures - What You Need to Know!” 11:30-1:30
- October 10 COLUMBUS DAY
- October 14-15 **CFRW Fall Conference in Burlingame – SAVE THE DATE!**
- October 20 West Valley RWF lunch meeting w/Assemblyman Heath Flora, 11:30-1:30
- October 31 HALLOWEEN
- November 6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
- November 8 ELECTION DAY – VOTE REPUBLICAN!
- November 11 VETERANS DAY
- November 17 West Valley RWF lunch meeting w/TBD

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Click here to send us an email: [westvalleyrwf@gmail.com](mailto:westvalleyrwf@gmail.com)



*CFRW is officially chartered by the California Republican Party, and we are the largest Federated state in the National Federation!*



*CFRW is officially chartered by the RNC.*