

BARBARA MCANDREWS IRIS FUND

History of the Barbara McAndrew Iris Fund

In November of 1997, the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women (TFRW) Board of Directors established a Political Action Committee (PAC) to provide financial assistance for Republican candidates during the General Election who are seeking election to the Tennessee General Assembly. To honor the effective and diligent efforts of the out-going President in 1997, the board called this PAC the Barbara McAndrew Iris Fund (Iris Fund).

The Iris Fund is managed by a committee of the TRFW. The committee is composed of six members – two members being from each of the geographical divisions of Tennessee identified as East, Middle and West Tennessee. They are appointed by the President-elect after officers have been elected at the biennial convention and subject to the approval of the Executive Board. The chairman of the committee shall be appointed by the president-elect and approved by the Executive Board.

Barbara McAndrew served on the committee as an advisor up until her death in 2011. By two-thirds vote of the entire committee, the committee may seek expert advice from other advisors relating to the immediate management concerns. The committee does work closely with the Tennessee Republican Party. The Committee has sole responsibility of disbursement of monies.

TFRW CLUBS CONTRIBUTIONS:

Each TFRW affiliated club is expected to contribute to the Iris Fund annually. Representatives from clubs across the state gather in Nashville during the even numbered years for the Iris Fund Luncheon or Brunch that is held in the spring when the legislative session ends to present checks to the Iris Fund. Clubs may, also, be asked for an auction item or a monetary donation for this Luncheon. Then at the TFRW Biannual Convention (odd numbered years), TFRW affiliated clubs may present their check to the Iris Fund.

The first round of checks were presented on September 4, 1998 to our Republican Legislative candidates. Every election cycle since, the Iris Fund has continued to provide financial support.

Nanyce Hines served as the first Treasurer, followed by Barbara Brewer who was appointed as treasure on March 31, 2008. Gayle Bennett became treasurer in 2015.

Rieta Selberg served as the first Chairman.