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*Newsletter— Spring 2021*

## A Message from our President, Patty Castillo

Wow! MCRW has had an incredible and action-filled first quarter!

In February, our members participated in TFRW Legislative Day in Austin. We learned about the legislative process and how to be more effective in speaking up for our priorities, and then we were ready to begin our fight!

We then embraced our 5 Priorities for Texas and researched, called, emailed and testified! Thank you for all your hard work and efforts. Thanks especially to those who went to Austin and the session was canceled due to political (Dems) shenanigans! Whoever said politics was for the faint-hearted?



1. Election Integrity
2. Abolition of Abortion
3. Religious Freedom
4. School Choice for ALL
5. Constitutional Carry

We have been privileged to have incredible speakers at our General Meetings to support our work for the 5 Priorities.

- We learned about Religious Freedom from the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious liberty, First Liberty Institute and their spokesperson, Lathan Watts.
- We saw and heard evidence of what really happened in the November election from security expert Russ Ramsland. His mesmerizing presentation was a catalyst for many of us to take action immediately!
- And on April 13<sup>th</sup>, we have a double feature – Constitutional Carry with Rachel Malone from Gun Owners of America and School Choice with our own Maria Berry. Don't miss this great meeting!

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### Republicans Believe In ...

- The U.S. Constitution
- Pro-Life/Family Values
- Right to Bear Arms
- Strong National Defense
- Smaller Government
- Balanced Budget/  
Cutting Spending
- Free Market System
- Decrease in Regulation
- Balance of Power
- Personal Responsibility
- Quality & Choice in Education
- Opportunity for All
- Freedom



## Vice President, Kathy Endres



### #WeShowUp

#### MCRW Scholarship

Over the years, MCRW has donated funds to the McLennan Community College Scholarship Program as one of our Community Engagement Initiatives. However, we have never known how those funds were disbursed nor the name of the recipient(s). This year, we took a different approach and inserted ourselves into the process of selecting the recipient, and MCC was very helpful. During the initial meeting of the ad hoc Scholarship Award Committee, we constructed three questions, which MCC posted on their website along with an invitation to women students to write an essay of no more than 400 words on one of the questions. In January, the MCRW Board of Directors voted to award two scholarships. Then, after each committee member had read essays from 22 students and graded on a rubric written by Anne Grinols, we made our selections. Ms. Mollie Johnson and Ms. Brynne McWhirter will each be awarded a Scholarship in the amount of \$300.00 for the Fall 2021 Semester. Both ladies will also be our guests at the May 11 Luncheon and Meeting at the Baylor Club. Congratulations Ladies!

## MEET BARBARA CROSS

In January, the MCRW 2nd Vice President, Cynder McAnear, resigned. Work requirements for her job at DPS and the demands of a young family, especially during the CCP Virus, made it very difficult to find time to fulfill volunteer activities. We hope that we will be able to engage her talents in our organization again soon.



In February, Barbara Cross was appointed to the 2nd Vice President position.

Barbara is a native Texan. She grew up in Virginia but moved back to Texas in 1975 when her father began work at the Pantex Nuclear Plant in Amarillo. She moved to Waco in 1990 to teach English and French at La Vega High School. She taught there for four years and then transitioned to Midway Intermediate School, where she taught sixth grade English for eighteen years. Before her retirement in 2016, she served as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction for China Spring Elementary School. She then attended MCC's Massage Therapy Program and the Advanced Massage Therapy Program at the Lauderstein-Conway School in Austin. Barbara is the owner of Refresh Massage Therapy in Woodway, Texas. She is certified in oncology and manual lymphatic drainage massage as well as therapeutic and relaxation massage. She and her husband, Herb, have a daughter, Montana, who will graduate with honors from the University of Texas at Dallas in May. If you do not know Barbara, please find her at one of our meetings and introduce yourself. She would love to get to know you!

## Vice President, Kathy Endres, (cont.)

### Border Visit



Over the weekend of March 27 & 28, the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) held their Quarterly meeting in Laredo, Texas. Laredo is of course a border town and very much in the news lately because it is now an open pathway to the United States from Mexico.

Devvie Duke, the MCRW immediate Past President, current SD 22 District Director and our SREC (State Republican Executive Committee) Committeewoman, was among the members attending this meeting.

They had a tour of the border, which has 6 ports of entry through Laredo. The Border Patrol agent that conducted the tour indicated that as many as 10,000 18-wheelers can come through that port of entry on any given day. The Border Patrol does conduct random inspections, but they know what to look for before pulling a particular vehicle over for inspection. When asked what the 'biggest' thing she had seen coming through was, she said it was about a 1200 pound 'ball' of cocaine.

Devvie said they stayed in the historic district of Laredo and the locals that approached them were very happy to have RPT members visit and get a first-hand look at what is happening to their community. Thank you Devvie, for standing on the front lines for us!



*Right: Devvie Duke, Kristi Antonik and Glynis Chester, President of TFRW*

**Alert! The following articles contain time-sensitive information about the Legislative Priorities passed by the Republican Party of Texas at the July 2020 Convention. Many of the mentioned Bills, both House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (SB) are already working their way through the necessary steps for passage. Please watch for emails concerning the process and to what point in the process a certain Bill has progressed. These emails will usually be a Call to Action and you should then either make the calls or send emails to the Senators or Representatives listed, according to instructions.**

## Research and Legislature—Anne Grinols

Many MCRW members have Shown Up – from meetings in Waco to hearings in Austin – as we work together to advance our 5 Legislative Priorities. After a general interest meeting in January, five members stepped up to carry the torch for their Priority teams! Subsequently, the Torchbearers have met several times for instructional presentations, updates, and sharing ideas. Here is a snapshot of highlights through late March, based on their last updates.

**Election Integrity:** Angelika Hoehner provides email communication with her group of 20 twice per week and took a group of 5 to visit Jared Goldsmith, the new McLennan County Elections Administrator. Her next trip was to the Capitol to support current legislation in this vital area.

*Recommended bills to follow: HR 6 and SB 7*

**Abolish Abortion:** Donna Jernigan communicates with her team of 12 through emails. Her goal is to provide them specific contact information for relevant legislators so her team can contact them directly.

*Recommended bills to follow: SB 9 and HB 1280*

**Religious Freedom:** Kathy Turner communicates to her team of 12 through Zoom, email, and Facebook posts. She was the first in our club to provide in-person testimony at the Capitol. Her dedication is evident in the many trips and long days there – and the work is bearing fruit.

*Recommended bills to follow: SB 26/HB 1239 and SJR 27/HJR 72*

**School Choice for All:** Maria Berry has a team of 9. She reports that the Democrats in our legislature are trying to amend the Texas Education Code to require critical race theory be injected into the Texas Educational Code through “Action Civics” and diversity measures. We must oppose these bills before they become law and upend our children’s education.. Maria will share more in this area at the April MCRW meeting.

*Bills to Oppose: SB 1740, SB 174, HB 153. Recommended bill to follow: HB 1399*

**Constitutional Carry:** Karen Lane has considerable interaction with her team of 14, utilizing information from Rachel Malone of Gun Owners of America. She also has made multiple trips to the Capitol, reporting her experience to both educational and exhilarating.

*Recommended bills to follow: HB 1238 and SB 540*

Excellent speakers at our monthly meetings highlight our Priorities with all 5 Priorities to be covered by the end of this legislative session. No wonder the meetings sell out!

Intrigued? Contact a Torchbearer to get involved. Don’t delay: the Texas 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session ends May 31 but the work is happening now! It isn’t done until the bills we support pass!

Check out the on-the-ground experiences Torchbearers share elsewhere in this newsletter for more inspiration! Consider going to the Capitol to support specific bills with your presence or in oral testimony. Enter written comments on the easy-to-use Texas Legislature Online (TLO) website during House hearings. Call your representative – or his staffer – to provide your own reason to support or oppose a bill under consideration. Send email or personal notes. **We are the grassroots. Let our voices be heard!**



1. Election Integrity
2. Abolition of Abortion
3. Religious Freedom
4. School Choice for ALL
5. Constitutional Carry

## Priority 1. Election Integrity

### Angelika Hoehner



The Election Integrity task force has been very busy tracking bills in the Texas Senate and House. Currently, there are 74 bills in the Senate, with an additional eight that have been voted out of the State of Affairs committee. There are 270 bills filed in the House, with 2 voted out of committee. Of particular interest are two omnibus bills, SB 7, authored by Senators Hughes, Bettencourt et al. and HB 6, authored by Chairman Briscoe Cain, Senator Birdwell and others. Individuals in our group have been busy emailing or calling in support of these bills, as well as writing thank you notes to the authors of the bills for supporting election integrity.

In addition to emailing Texas representatives, we also wrote to Democrat Senator Joe Manchin encouraging him to continue his stance on maintaining the current filibuster rules and asking him not to endorse HR 1, euphemistically called “The People’s Act.” If adopted, this bill will eliminate state’s rights in determining election code and will enable wholesale ballot harvesting, voter registration without ID, etc. There are many other dangerous items in this bill, so we support a veto once the bill enters the Senate.

In February, several members of our task force met with Elections Administrator, Jared Goldstein, and Pat McCord, to get an overview of the mail-in ballot procedures currently used. The meeting was extremely informative and we had many questions about the entire process.

Kathy Turner, Karen Lane, and Angelika Hoehner travelled to Austin on March 22 to testify in support of SB 7. After taking a Covid test, we were allowed to enter the Capitol where we completed our testimony forms. Finally, we were allowed to enter the Senate Gallery. We waited eagerly for the hearing to begin. Once the roll was called, those present in the chamber were told that SB 7 had “been tagged”, which meant the bill could not be heard that day. Apparently, 5 Democrat Senators objected to the time line from when the bill was originally presented, throwing the entire process into question. On a side note, at least two of the Democrat Senators who “tagged” SB 7 were not in their offices to hear our complaints after the failed hearing. We later spoke to another Republican Senator in his office who said he was very surprised, since the “tagging” option had not been used in years. This is our government at work!

Unlike the Senate, the Texas House allows for both in-person and on-line testimony. After watching the House hearing on several election integrity bills, we were able to post our comments in support or opposition of various bills. Specifically, support was posted for HB 1725, authored by Senator Paul; HB 574 authored by Senator Bonnen and support for HB 6, authored by Chairman Cain, Senator Birdwell, and others. We encourage anyone who is interested, to watch the Senate or House committee meetings from the TLO website. They provide an interesting insight into the workings of our government.



**ELECTION INTEGRITY MATTERS**



## Priority 2. Abolition of Abortion

**Donna Jernigan**

### **Texas Senate Advances Seven Bills Restricting Abortion**

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick has made pro-life legislation top priority for this legislative session and has placed two of these bills at the top of his list. Seven were passed by a handy majority vote in the full Senate and now must be approved by the House.

Patrick's first priority is SB 8 which would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected. A heartbeat is detected as early as six weeks. The bill has an exception for medical emergencies but not for incest and rape. An abortionist would need to look for a heartbeat and if one is found, could not perform the abortion. State Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) is the lead author and said the unique legal language in the bill makes him believe it will be upheld. He says, "It is intended to protect our most vulnerable Texans." Nearly every Republican in the Senate has signed on as an author of SB 8. There were 17 authors and co-authors including Senator Birdwell. The companion in the House is HB 1515 authored by Rep. Shelby Slawson (R-Stephenville).

SB 9, Lt. Patrick's other priority, would bar nearly all abortions if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade. It is known as the "Abortion Ban Trigger" or the Human Life Protection Act. It provides for a \$100,000 fine for doctors who perform abortions after the law goes into effect. The Senate bill was authored by Senator Angela Paxton (R-McKinney) and the matching HB 1280 is authored by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R-Keller). There are 49 authors and co-authors including Rep. Doc Anderson. So far, ten other states have passed similar "trigger bills", designed to be triggered into law when Roe is struck down.

SB 394 would bar pill-induced abortions after seven weeks. Nearly 40% of abortions in Texas were chemically/pill induced in 2019 and there is ongoing evidence that complications, often life-threatening, are associated with these procedures. Pill abortions disconnect the baby from the mother and the onset of heavy bleeding and severe cramping expel the baby. Less medical oversight is available which increases negative outcomes, like life-threatening bleeding and incomplete abortions that lead to infection. The emotional and psychological impact of expelling a baby while alone are also factors to consider. This bill prohibits obtaining these dangerous drugs through the mail, especially because then there is usually no medical oversight. Rep. Stephanie Klick (R-North Richland Hills) has authored HB 2337, companion bill to SB 394 and 40 authors and co-authors have signed on to this House bill including Doc Anderson.

SB 1173, authored by Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would not allow for abortions based on the race or gender of the child. This also includes abortions on babies for whom a birth defect is detected or suspected. Palliative care is required after the live birth of an aborted baby. HB 3218 is its companion and Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler) authored it. Thirty House legislators have signed on to it.

SB 802, authored by Senator Paxton, requires access to a pre-abortion counseling resource that is an alternative to abortion. This resource must be a licensed practitioner of many types and could be at a pregnancy resource center but cannot be at an abortion clinic or entity associated with abortion. Accountability is through HHS. HB 2313, authored by Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Allen) is its companion.

Last session Senator Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) authored and passed SB 22, that would not allow local governments to subsidize abortions. The city of Austin worked around it by allowing government money to be used for many third-party support services that greatly enhance obtaining an abortion. Currently Austin has a \$400,000 grant to be used for child care, transportation to and from the abortuary, counseling for abortion, attorney fees, food, and lodging for this purpose. They have also earmarked an additional

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## 2. Abolition of Abortion Cont.

\$100,000 for immigrants, minorities and LGBTQIA people seeking support for abortion. This time Senator Campbell authored SB 650 which has passed in the Senate. It does not allow governments to pay third parties to provide these types of support services that enhance the provision of abortions. The companion bill in the House is HB 1173, and it is authored by Rep. Candy Noble (R-Murphy). This bill is in committee and will have a hearing on Thursday, April 8.

Most of the other pro-life House bills will have a hearing Wednesday, April 7, in the Public Health Committee.

Two bills are authored by Bryan Slaton (R-Royse City): The Abolition of Abortion, HB 3326 and HB 3641, which would declare void in Texas all federal court decisions relating to abortion and prohibit enforcement of those decisions. If passed, it would mean that Texas could ignore Roe v. Wade. Neither of these bills has received a hearing as yet.

Steve Toth (R-Spring) authored HB 69 prohibiting abortion after twelve weeks. It is now 20 weeks. This bill has not passed to committee.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

~Pray to end abortion.

~Consult the Texas Right to Life web site.

~Write thank you notes to any or all the pro-life advocates in our legislature and call them to show support.

~Contact House Speaker Dade Phelan (R-Orange) and Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock), the Chair of the House Calendar. They have NOT made pro-life measures a priority as has Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and they are holding up the process.



Cheryl Lenamon, Anne Grinols, Kathy Endres, Patty Castillo



40 Days For Life gathering at the CareNet facility across from Planned Parenthood Deborah McGregor is speaking.

**40 Days to Pray to End Abortion: We Show Up**

## Priority 3. Religious Freedom

### Kathy Turner

Before the COVID 19 outbreak, few of us would have imagined that government would prohibit, restrict, or prescribe the format and manner of worship and religious activities, given the guarantees in the First Amendment to the US Constitution. Yet, that happened across the nation and even in Texas. In response, several bills and state constitutional amendments have been introduced in the Texas Legislature to codify and clarify our freedom to exercise our faith and the rights of religious organizations. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick has made religious freedom one of his top priorities. Although Governor Abbott did not designate this as one of his priorities, he did mention it in his State of the State Address. House Speaker Dade Phelan has not publicly indicated this as a priority.

### SENATE ACTION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In the Texas Senate, there have been eleven bills, one duplicate bill, and one proposed constitutional amendment dealing directly with prohibiting the closure of churches, limiting the right to worship, or the rights of religious organizations to carry out their functions. There have been at least twelve bills and three proposed constitutional amendments that indirectly deal with religious freedom, not counting the right to life bills. This includes four bills that would codify measures that run counter to widely held beliefs.

All but two of the bills on religious freedom were referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee, chaired by Bryan Hughes with our Senator Brian Birdwell serving as Vice Chair. The committee is composed of six Republicans and three Democrats.



*Kathy Turner, Terry McDonald and Kathy Endres attend Senate hearings on Religious Freedom*

Senator Angela Paxton is the primary author of SB 26, which is a duplicate of her previously filed SB 251. The bill has ten other authors and six additional co-authors, including two Democrats. Senator Kelly Hancock is the author of SJR 27, a proposed constitutional amendment. There are twelve co-authors including Senator Birdwell and two Democrats. The public hearing for these two pieces of religious freedom legislation was held during the first meeting of the State Affairs Committee on March 8. Three members of MCRW attended the hearing in Austin, registering their position in favor. Kathy Turner testified orally and in writing. Other testifiers in favor of this legislation included representatives from Texas Values and several pastors and individuals from across the state. No one testified against the legislation, although representatives from the City of Dallas and the American Civil Liberties Union registered a position in opposition.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, these two pieces of legislation were voted favorably out of committee by a vote of 7-2. These were considered by the full Senate and passed to engrossment by a vote of 28-2 on March 25<sup>th</sup>. They have been sent to the House.

Another related bill heard on March 8<sup>th</sup> was SB 12 by Hughes and others. It would require social media outlets to publish their criteria for censorship and would provide remedies for those who have been censured for religious or political posts. Our three MCRW members registered in favor of the bill, and there was extensive

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### 3. Religious Freedom Cont.

testimony both for and against. The social media outlets of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Google were invited to testify, but they did not attend. SB 12 was voted favorably out of committee on 3/22 by a vote of 6-3. The full Senate considered this bill on 3/30 with two amendments added and one that failed. It was passed by the full Senate on 4/1 on a vote of 18-13. It has been sent to the House. Four other bills relating to religious freedom, including Senator Birdwell's bill on parental rights, are scheduled for hearing by Senate State Affairs on 4/6. Senator Perry's SB 247, which would protect the religious belief rights of applicants and members of the bar and the judiciary have been reported favorably by the committee, but not placed on the full Senate intent calendar.

Senator Birdwell's SB 738 on the right of public officials to recuse themselves from performing marriage ceremonies on religious grounds has not been heard. Senator Hughes SB 1201 to provide the terminally ill or dying patients access to their religious counsel/pastors has not been set for hearing. Bills to provide inmates access to chaplaincy services and to protect the right of medical professionals from having to engage in procedures counter to their religious or moral beliefs are in other committees and have not had hearings yet.

### HOUSE ACTION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The House State Affairs Committee held a hearing on 3/25 on HB 525 by Shaheen/Dean regarding the protection of religious organizations and HB 1239 by Sanford, which is the identical companion to SB 26.. These bills were reported on favorably by the committee on 4/1 by a 12-0 vote. HB 525 has 20 co-authors, including "Doc" Anderson. HB 1239 has 51 other authors and co-authors, including our Rep. Anderson. These have not been placed on the House calendar by the Calendars Committee. The 3/25 hearing included two other religious freedom bills; HJR 72 by Leach, a proposed constitutional amendment identical to SJR 27; and HCR 1 by Stephenson. All four are still in committee without a vote. Kathy Turner attended the hearing in person and registered and testified in favor. Other MCRW members submitted comments online. Out of 540 referred bills, the House State Affairs Committee has only voted on sixteen so far, so it is significant that two of the sixteen were on religious freedom. All but one of the religious freedom bills referred to House State Affairs were heard on 3/25.

Religious freedom bills have been referred to four other House committees, yet have not been heard.

The House State Affairs Committee held a hearing on HB 3, which would clarify and expand the powers of the Governor during a disaster or pandemic. Rep. Burrows, the author, is the Chair of the House Calendars Committee. The bill is still in committee. This bill includes a provision on religious liberty; however, it does not expressly limit the power of the Governor or local officials relating to religious freedom. Instead, it refers to the federal Religious Freedom Rights Act (RFRA) of 1993, which is subject to change by law, executive action, or judicial interpretation. It also refers to a chapter in current state law that allows suspension in "a compelling government interest," and includes language of "least restrictive means of furthering that interest," and "may not substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion." This language is subject to interpretation and lacks the firmer guarantees and clarity of the other House bills and proposed constitutional amendment.



*Lathan Watts, from First Liberty Institute speaking at February luncheon on Religious Freedom.*

## Priority 5. Constitutional Carry

### Karen Lane

The Constitutional Carry committee has been hard at work and having fun! With a weekly newsletter from GOA (Gun Owners of America) Texas, we have been able to keep up with the bills that have been filed, and the newsletter has given us all of the information we need to contact House committee members as well as our Representative “Doc” Anderson and Senator Brian Birdwell.

We have been able to get a lot done simply through emails and phone calls. I have been forwarding any information I receive from GOA Texas, the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority Report, the Texas Minute, and any other information and alerts I receive to all of the committee members and asking them to take action. Of course, I don’t ask anything of them that I don’t expect from myself! It is truly my belief that many of our Republican legislators are listening to and hearing each and every voice, and that this WILL make a difference not only in this legislative session, but also in the future!!! It only takes a couple of minutes each day for the members of the committee.



*Karen Lane and Congressman Biedermann at the Capitol.*

A few weeks ago, I went to Austin to do a literature drop at the Capitol. This is coordinated weekly by the GOA, and it’s a lot of fun! We take a priority handout to each representative or senator office, tell them who we are and ask staffers to please let the legislator know the importance of it. Though we were not able to personally see the legislators, our group was warmly received by each staff member from the offices of both parties, and some of them wanted to talk to us for a while. After we finished, we went to the Capitol Grill for a bite to eat, where Representative Steve Toth approached us and told us he is doing everything he can to get our gun bills (the ones we support) passed.

Destiny Hallman and I had a LONG, but invigorating day down at the Capitol last Thursday, where we were able to testify in person in support of constitutional carry bills. The hearing started at 8:00 a.m. and ended at 5:00 am the next morning! We were able to give testimony around 2:00 a.m. on Friday morning! In the meantime we were able to meet Representative Kyle Biedermann (R-Fredericksburg - author and sponsor of the bill, and the man who kindly fed us), as well as testify in support of his bill, HB 1238 . We also submitted written support for HB 1911 by James White (R-Hillister), HB 1927 by Matt Schaefer (R-Tyler), and HB 2900 by Cole Hefner (R-Mt. Pleasant). Representatives Schaefer and Hefner also came into the conference room where we were gathered to let us know what was happening with the legislation being heard that day. Representative Biedermann also came into the hearing when his bill was brought up. Representative James White, the Committee chair, was an absolute joy to address. He really listened to everyone and executed his duties flawlessly. All of the committee members, in fact, were extremely patient and cordial. Up until the time we testified, we sat in on the hearings for the Homeland Security and Public Safety bills, and it was not at all boring! All of the arguments for and against the bills were extremely compelling. Destiny and I both left at 2:30 a.m. in order to catch a few ZZZs, but we were very upbeat and energized when we left, and we hope that the bills will be put on the

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## 5. Constitutional Carry Cont

calendar by April 8. If they aren't, the bills will basically be dead. So get onto the Texas Legislature Online website and contact committee members and legislators to let them know where you stand!

Two members of the committee have a GGD (Girls' Gun Day) in the works! They have already contacted an instructor who would be happy to spend an afternoon with us, helping us to learn how to shoot, as well as improving our target practice! Stay tuned – this promises to be a blast!



*Karen Lane and Destiny Hallman at the Capitol to testify for Constitutional Carry.*

## PARLIAMENTARY MOMENT 2/16/21

### Parliamentary Procedures During the Second Impeachment of Donald Trump

Those who watched the second impeachment of former President Donald Trump may have wondered about some of the parliamentary procedures that were followed. I'd like to discuss a couple of incidents in the presentation of the evidence.

On the second day, the House Managers were presenting the case against Trump. They quoted from newspaper articles and other news reporting about the so-called "insurrection" at the US Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Toward the end of the day of prosecutorial arguments, everything came to a halt after House Manager Joaquin Castro, Democrat from Texas, completed his speech. Senator Mike Lee, Republican from Utah, rose to ask the presiding officer, Senator Patrick Leahy, to strike some of the remarks made by Castro.

This parliamentary moment brought the impeachment hearing to a halt as discussions were held on how to handle the situation. Castro had quoted a media report that stated Senator Lee had made certain remarks. Those statements, "were not made by me, they're not accurate, and they're contrary to fact, and I move ... that they be stricken from the record," Lee said.

After several Senators gathered around Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's desk and were trying to talk over each other, the lead House Impeachment Manager, Representative Jamie Raskin (D-Maryland) returned to the microphone to report that his colleague (Castro) had "correctly and accurately" quoted the news report. Then he proceeded to withdraw that portion of the testimony for the present, but stated that they may bring it back up for debate at a later time. Then the trial adjourned until noon the next day.

Here are several notes that pertain to this situation:

1. Parliamentary procedures for any organization are whatever the group has agreed to use to keep their business on track, so it may or may not be the same as what we assume is used by most groups, Robert's Rules of Order. In addition, any rules changes they have made in their Bylaws or other organizational policies supercede Robert's Rules.
2. Rules for impeachment are slightly different than other Senate hearings or court cases. Prior to the start of the impeachment hearing, the two sides agreed to the rules of the game. However, they probably didn't think there would be any challenges to second-hand testimony, so they had not considered this scenario or prepared for it.
3. No witnesses were called for the hearing. All of the House Managers used second-hand and third-hand reporting to build their case. In fact, no investigations of the January 6<sup>th</sup> incidents had been completed prior to the start of the impeachment hearings, so interviews, articles, and opinion pieces were widely used to "sound like" first-hand testimony.

## Parliamentary Moment Cont.

3. They may have realized that quotes or attributions they were using in their presentation included Senators who would be sitting in the impeachment hearing as jurors, but obviously their assumption was that whatever they quoted would not be questioned. Senator Lee's interruption was significant because it demonstrated they were using unverified media reports for something as significant as a presidential impeachment.

One other moment in the impeachment proceedings that was significant (as far as parliamentary procedure goes) was the vote to call witnesses. The House Managers wanted to get into the record one reported third-hand quote, so they called for a vote on whether to have witnesses. Not only did all of the Democrat Senators vote for it, but several Republican Senators as well. At that point, Trump's defense attorneys said they would call about 100 witnesses and presented a list with nearly 300 names on it. Moving outside the Senate chamber, the defense attorneys negotiated a deal that the one quote could be entered into the record if the House Managers declined to start calling witnesses.

After the final vote was taken and former President Trump was acquitted, many Democrat Senators were very annoyed at the House Managers who gave in to the defense attorneys. It's a very interesting parliamentary procedure to ponder because it would be like passing a motion in our meetings, then leaders from both sides went out in the hall and decided not to carry out the motion at all. In normal parliamentary procedures, cancelling the vote would not be allowed without another vote of the members. However, the House Managers obviously proceeded to negotiate and no Democrat Senators took immediate action to officially challenge the action. Instead of several more weeks or months of witnesses, the vote was held that day and the acquittal was official.

*This Parliamentary Moment is reprinted with permission from Judith Staples, MCRW Parliamentarian.*



## MEMBERSHIP

**Happy Spring Everyone from your Membership Chair, Cheryl Lenamon**

### Membership Renewals

The MCRW board did a terrific job contacting members to renew their membership for 2021.

Thanks to all of you for calling, emailing, texting and for signing up renewals prior to the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The more members we have, the more McLennan County will be represented at the Texas Federation of Republican Women Convention in October. But don't fear, if you haven't renewed yet, you can still do so, you just won't be eligible to be a delegate to the convention.

## Membership

At the end of March, we had 208 members and 53 associate members. Of those, 21 are Sponsor Board Members! Thank you so much for your generosity! For more good news, we are already five members over our total membership for 2020. The challenging news is we are 92 members short of our 2021 goal, so we need to hustle! Invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, those in your sphere of influence to join.



## New Member Contest

At the May meeting we will announce the winner of our first, 2021 Membership Contest. The prize will go to the member who has brought in the most, new members in 2021. (November through April)

The winner will receive a gift basket filled with gorgeous decorating items from The Spindled Donkey in the Hico Mercantile, donated by co-owner and MCRW member, Stephanie West.

Thanks so much Stephanie. If you haven't been to Stephanie's shop, make a day of it and visit historic downtown Hico, TX to find "one of a kind" gifts, clothes and accessories.

## Red Readers, Sara Jones

Last month twenty-two of our members met at Sironia to discuss Blackout by Candace Owens...and everyone spoke enthusiastically about our March selection! Exciting and thought provoking discussions are the hallmark of our book club meetings.

March also brought several brand new participants, which is exactly what I love to see happen. Blackout appears to be in the running for our favorite book of the year. Don't miss reading this one!

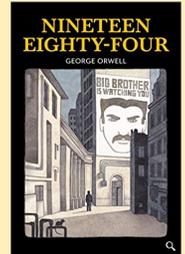
February's choice was China's Vision of Victory by Jonathan D. T. Ward. It is important for us to know the plans China has to become the world's super power. Communism destroys the freedoms of assembly, the press, religion, speech, and academic freedom. Looking at China gives the reader insight, not only into China's plans for the future, but also our changing America.

January's read was Fortitude by US Representative Dan Crenshaw. All of us were impressed with his personal story and the fortitude he showed after suffering serious injuries. The life of a SEAL is marked by personal courage, and Crenshaw inspired us to be more courageous as well.

The April selection is the classic 1984 by George Orwell. This book is mentioned over and over again in today's political comments as our country trends toward a "Big Brother" society. While not a happy story, it is shockingly current.

The back cover quotes:

"The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."



**Come join us on Thursday, April 22nd, 11:30 at Sironia to examine the world of 1984.**

## CARING FOR AMERICA, CONNIE STAMPS

During the past three months Caring for America has collected requested items for Carenet and Friends for Life which were greatly appreciated.

Covid has prevented us from playing Bingo with Friends for Life, but we are looking forward to resuming that fun activity with clients as soon as we are granted permission by the organization.



There will be a collection for blessing bags which are distributed by Pro Life Waco to girls entering Planned Parenthood, in consideration of abortion.

We will continue to help designated organizations on a monthly basis. Your donations are very valuable!

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