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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



Newsletter— Summer 2021

A Message from our President, Patty Castillo

What a wonderful month July is! We celebrate the FREEDOM given to us by our forefathers on the 4th of July. We remember that this is a great country and that we who are called to be the voices of all patriots speak and show up to fight to keep our principles and conservative values for our children and grandchildren. It is up to us!



More great news in July – this month finds us at almost 250 members! Congratulations to YOU, our best recruiters. We know that our newest members joined because they want to work to conserve our Texas, so let's show them how it's done! Thanks to our biggest membership cheerleader, our Membership Chair, Cheryl Lenamon for always finding new and interesting ways to motivate us.

This July is also special because Governor Abbott has called a 30-day Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislative Session to begin on July 8. Many of us were frustrated at the results of the legislation passed pertaining to our 5 Priorities that we so diligently worked on during the session. This is no reflection on your work. Our club was out in force calling, emailing, going to the Capitol and even testifying. We heard from legislators and others in Austin that our voices WERE heard! Our heartfelt thanks to our Research and Legislation Chair Anne Grinols and the 5 Torchbearers who lead us in this fight: Maria Berry, Angelika Hoeher, Donna Jernigan, Karen Lane, and Kathy Turner for all their hard work and for leading us through the sometimes murky waters in Austin!

Now, during this Special Session, we have a second chance to push through those priorities that are critical to our state's future, most important of which is our #1 Priority, Election Integrity. Without Election Integrity, our nation and our state crumble so get ready to put pressure on our Governor, Lt. Governor, and legislators and let them know that we must have strong legislation to ensure Election Integrity in this state! As we all know, if we lose Texas, our nation falls. Be on the lookout for emails with Action Alerts on how you can once again make your voice heard – but this time LOUDER!

In the meantime, don't forget to register for the TFRW Convention scheduled for October 13-16 at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock. Members, family, and guests are welcome! Soon you will receive an email on how we will nominate and vote for our MCRW delegates to the convention, but you don't have to be a delegate to attend. We promise it will be a valuable and fun experience with outstanding speakers, informative workshops, wonderful entertainment, and

(Continued on next page)

social events. Please visit the TFRW.org website and click on Events/Convention 2021 to find all the information and registration information you need.

Remember, we will not hold a General Meeting in July, but we will be back on August 10th with a surprise special guest speaker - you won't want to miss him! Watch your email soon for details ...

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. **Together we are indeed stronger!**

Kathy Endres Honored by Texas Senator Brian Birdwell

Congratulations to Kathy Endres for being selected by Texas Senator Brian Birdwell to serve as Chairwoman of the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) Review Board. We are so proud of you!

Kathy, a former member of the U.S. Air Force, currently serves as First Vice President of MCRW and was chosen by Senator Birdwell for her outstanding work in Senate District 22 as well as her commitment to her community.

The TASSP was created to assist capable students through the state committed to the pursuit of high education and military service in the State of Texas. It encourages young leaders to participate in the Texas State Guard, Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, United States Coast Guard, United States Merchant Marine or become commissioned officers in any of the active components of the armed force of the United States. Senator Birdwell's Review Board is assembled each year to determine which student in District 22 will received the single scholarship allotted.



Kathy Endres with Senator Brian Birdwell and the members of the TASSP Review Board

Vice President, Kathy Endres



Quarter Notes

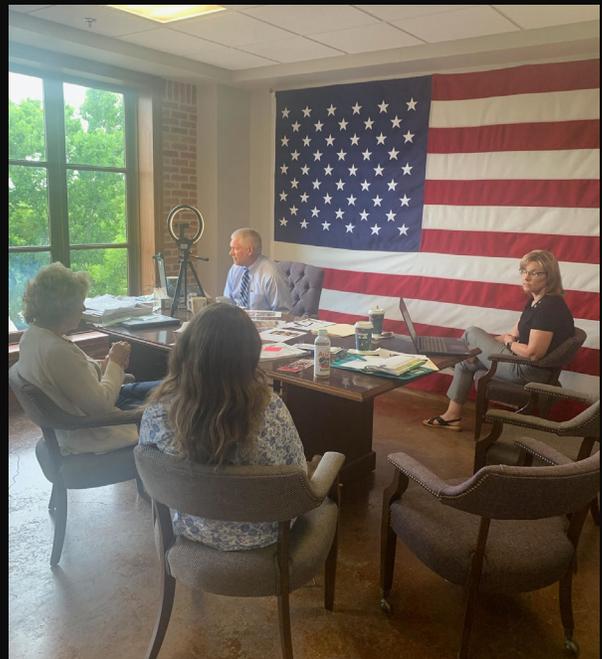
As we prepare to 'go to press' with the second quarter newsletter, we are also celebrating **4th of July!** What better way to celebrate this holiday dedicated to Freedom and Liberty than to give back to our beloved America. As you will see in the following pages, our members have been very busy giving to the community of their time, energy, and funds. We have such a dedicated, generous, and Patriotic group of awesome women. I love being your cheerleader!

At the end of June, I had the very distinct privilege of serving as Chair of Senator Brian Birdwell's Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program Selection Committee. Every year, each Texas State Senator gives one scholarship to an ROTC applicant from his or her district. Two other veterans and I met at Senator Birdwell's Capitol office in Austin and reviewed six applications. Our winner is a recent high school graduate from the Burleson area and plans to attend Texas A&M in the fall. After making our selection, we enjoyed lunch in the Lt. Governor's Reception Area. A good day for our applicant and the three veterans that helped make it possible.

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#WeShowUp

Below: Leadership Institute held a Campaign School in Waco on June 19. Many of our women, and a few spouses, attended.



Above: Members watching U.S. House hearings at Pete's Sessions' Waco office on June 9.



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

Research and Legislature, Anne Grinols

The Texas 87th Legislative Session will be known to us for many things, but surely one will be for the strong participation in the process by the members of the McLennan County Republican Women!

Compelling, knowledgeable speakers who covered each of our 5 Priorities were brought in by our president, Patty Castillo. They informed and encouraged us all as our involvement increased month by month. The enthusiasm was contagious as meeting attendance grew. Attendees signed postcards that were dispatched to Austin in real-time support of bills under consideration. Many guests at our meetings also joined the club and got involved.

Meanwhile, our five volunteer Torchbearers led their teams as they prayed, worked, emailed, phoned, traveled, testified, strategized, communicated, and then did it all again as we went through the Session. You will find their reports elsewhere in this Newsletter. Once again, our deep thanks to Angelika, Kathy, Karen, Donna, and Maria for all their hard work!

Although the official session has ended, our work does not. Rather than relying on a person or a party, we know that We the People will enjoy the blessings of liberty only as we participate in the process with courage, perseverance, and prayer. Long may we be “the land of the free and the home of the brave!”



Election Integrity - Angelika Hoeher

Election Integrity was the number one priority listed by Governor Abbott prior to the beginning of the Legislative session. It was also the number one priority listed by the Republican Party delegates during the State Convention. At the end of the session the following bills pertaining to election integrity were actually sent to the Governor for his signature:

SB 598 – requires voting systems that produce auditable paper trails. This will be phased in by September 2026. (Sent to Governor May 31)

SB 1111 – clarifies that a voter must register where they live, not at a PO Box, empty lot, or commercial address. (Sent to Governor on May 27)

SB 1113 – authorizes the Secretary of State to withhold state funding from county election officials who fail to follow rules for cancelling the registration of ineligible voters (Sent to Governor May 29)

HB 574 – this bill creates two new election fraud felonies (Sent to Governor on May 20)

HB 2283 – this bill limits private monies donated to county officials for use in administering elections to \$1000, unless approved by Secretary of State, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. (Sent to the Governor on May 31)

HB 3107 – this bill allows rural counties to move temporary polling places every two days. (Sent to the Governor on June 1)

The following important election bills died during the legislative session:

SB 7 – this was a top Republican priority bill. It was labeled as an omnibus bill as it contained dozens of election reforms making our elections “more secure, accurate and transparent.” The bill passed in the Senate, was sent to the House elections committee where the language of HB 6 was substituted for SB 7. It passed in the House with 18 amendments and was returned to the Senate. The Senate refused to agree with the House version, so a Conference Committee was requested. The Conference Committee report passed in the Senate but it died in the House during the remaining hours of the Legislative Session, when the Democrats walked out of the Chamber resulting in a lack of a quorum for a vote.

Abolition of Abortion - Donna Jernigan

Though there were many pro-life bills put forward this legislative session, only a few were passed. This is despite the fact that abolishing abortion was a priority of Gov. Abbott as well as a strong platform plank and a priority for the RPT. Over 53,000 Texans were killed by abortion in 2020.

The good news is that some positive legislation was passed, like SB 8, The Heartbeat Bill. This was the pro-life win of the year making it illegal to abort a baby with a detectable heartbeat. Texas is late in this battle with thirteen other states having passed heartbeat bills ahead of us and gratefully many more to follow. Another hard-won bill was SB 9, The Trigger Bill, meaning that when the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, it will automatically make abortions in Texas illegal.

There are some important bills that did **NOT** pass. One would have prevented pill-induced abortions after seven weeks of life in the womb, and this is a disappointment because these chemical abortions can also be life-threatening to the mother. Other bills would have stopped abortions based on gender or race, and another would have stopped the use of government funds that are diverted to provide support of abortion for things like transportation and housing for abortion clients.

The governor has set July 8 for a special session though some Democrats may not show up thus preventing a necessary quorum. Gov. Abbott has not set his agenda yet, so each of us can contact him and ask that some of our failed abortion measures be revisited. Another measure that did not pass that needs to be on that agenda is under-age genital mutilation for the purpose of trying to imitate a different gender than the one assigned at birth.

On a related topic, many of our Texas cities have now declared themselves to be *sanctuary cities for the unborn*. Edinburg now joins a host of others including, Naples, Gary, Joaquin, Gilmer, Rusk, Waskom, Omaha, Levelland, Westbrook, East Mountain, Big Spring, Colorado City, Goldsmith, Sterling City, Gorman, Latexo, Wells, Grapeland, Ackerly, Whiteface, Tenaha, Murchison, Grapeland, Poynor, Carbon, Abernathy, New Home, Morton, Sundown, Kirkman, Star, and Lubbock - the largest Texas city to so declare.

Legislative Priorities: The Rest of the Story

Contributed by Kathy Turner

Religious Freedom: Bills passed:

- The Freedom to Worship Act prohibits the closing of church worship services during an emergency;
- Protects the right of religious organizations to operate during an emergency;
- Requires public schools and public colleges and universities to prominently display the National Motto 'In God We Trust' if the poster or framed copy is privately funded;
- Allows in-person visits by clergy to residents and patients in health care facilities during a health emergency;
- Prohibits homeowner's associations from banning religious displays on their own property;
- Supports prayer, including use of the word "GOD" at public gatherings and displaying the Ten Commandments in educational institutions and public buildings.
- Proposed Constitutional Amendment that will be on the ballot in November, that will prohibit the state or a political subdivision from prohibiting or limiting religious services.

School Choice:

These bills were basically DOA, but one bill passed that will require civics instruction.

Constitutional Carry: Bills passed:

- Licensing will no longer be required to carry a gun
- And to make Texas a Second Amendment Sanctuary and bans state and local enforcement of federal gun laws enacted after January 19, 2021.

Campaign Activities, Angelika Hoehner

In preparation for the 2022 election cycle, several MCRW members attended the Leadership Institute held in Waco on June 19, 2020. The workshop focused on how to be a more effective campaigner. Topics included strategy (what am I running on), tactics (hardware and labor), logistics (staff, volunteers) and fundraising. Most importantly, the focus was on creating a message, staying on message, and making that message stick throughout the campaign. All in all, it was a most interesting and informative way to learn about the basics of running a campaign. If you are interested in running for public office, please check out the Leadership Institute's website for their training opportunities.



Red Readers, Sara Jones

Red Readers Book Club challenges you to read with a purpose. What is that purpose? Our hope is that you, and the friends with whom you share, will learn conservative principles, new opinions, and ways to be challenged in critical thinking.

Each book we read has a different message, but all agree on the greatness of America and the battle for our freedom.

For me personally, the two most important books we have read are 1984 by George Orwell and We Will Not be Silenced by Erwin Lutzer.

Recently I asked several of our members about their experience belonging to Red Readers.

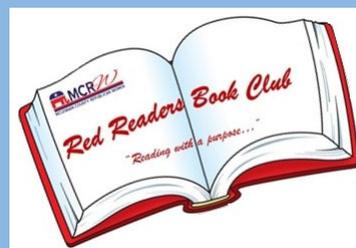
Here's what they shared:

*Red Readers is more than a book club. It's a smaller group of MCRW ladies and guests who gather to discuss a monthly book selection, whether you read it or not. It's a great atmosphere to get to know others, be enlightened, and hear other opinions. The book selections we've read have varied from light (*Speaking for Myself* by S.Sanders) to mind-stretching (*1984* by G.Orwell) to so timely (*Faucian Bargain* by S.Deace). My favorites have been *Justice on Trial: The Kavanaugh Confirmation and the Future of the Supreme Court* by Hemingway/Severino, *Radicals, Resistance and Revenge* (J.Piro), and *Ship of Fools* (Tucker Carlson). "To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark." (Victor Hugh) -- Debbie Wolgemuth*

"It's a great place to meet people and exchange ideas." – Jackie Etchison

I absolutely love book club! Besides the thought-provoking and informative books that Sara chooses for us to read, the camaraderie is wonderful. I've met so many patriotic and caring friends who love our beautiful country and want to make a difference. I look forward to it each month! – Barbara Cross

They say it so much better than I ever could! As I head into the coming months of book choices, it is a bit overwhelming. There are so many from which to choose! I cannot wait to find out just the right ones we will read to close out our year.



Tom Cotton, U.S. Republican Senator from Arkansas, when he spoke at MCC on May 6. Senator Cotton also sold and signed his best-selling book Sacred Duty

A Parliamentary Moment

At each MCRW Board meeting, Parliamentarian Judy Staples presents a Parliamentary Moment to cover common questions about parliamentary procedure. This month's topic takes a look at when a motion may be required as part of the business of our organization.

Must a motion be made in order discuss a subject?

A careful reading of Robert's Rules of Order would lead one to believe that no discussion can take place unless there is a motion on the table. However, there are exceptions to most rules and this is one of them.

Parliamentary procedure exists to help groups operate in an efficient and effective manner, always making sure that the rights of all the members of the group are respected. Well-led groups are prepared for issues they anticipate will arise during the meeting and often come prepared to present a motion that covers the essential points of a decision that needs to be made. It helps the group eliminate unnecessary and disjointed discussions that take a great deal of time and often don't resolve the problem.

Someone with knowledge of the problem may present the background information first, then present a motion that must be seconded by another member in order to be discussed. (If there is not a second to the motion, the motion fails for lack of a second.) If the motion comes from a committee, it does not require a second.

Next comes the discussion on the motion (and only on the motion on the table). It can be modified by an amendment and then the amended motion is discussed and decided.

This is fairly typical in our group and has resulted in relatively unified decision-making.

The other approach is to have a long discussion and then have a member formulate a motion from the information that is then voted on very quickly because the discussion has already taken place. While this is an acceptable parliamentary procedure, it is not preferred because it usually takes much longer to get to the group's decision and it often creates divisions as people take sides on the various aspects of the topic during the long discussion. To sum it up, it is allowed, but not very efficient or effective and sometimes does harm to the group's unity.

The third way to reach a decision, especially in noncontroversial matters, is through "general consent" or "unanimous consent." The presiding officer asks, "Is there any objection to ...?" An example might be, "Is there any objection to ending debate?" If no one objects, the decision is made and the meeting moves forward. However, if a member objects, the matter on the table quickly returns to a motion and a vote. Unanimous consent allows an assembly to move quickly through un-contested issues.

So, the answer to the question "Must a motion be made in order to discuss a subject?" the answer is yes and no. Hopefully the leader of the meeting has a sense of the problem or issue and helps guide the group to move into the method that makes sense for the group to decide in a fair, efficient, and effective manner.



MEMBERSHIP

Happy Spring Everyone from your Membership Chair,
Cheryl Lenamon

New Member Orientation



If you are a new member this year and missed the **New Member Orientation** in June, you missed a super fun time. The board hosted two get togethers – a Coffee & Treats morning and a Wine & Cheese evening. Our new members were given the floor to share their lives and get to know each other. In addition, participating board members gave short presentations about MCRW, committees, and volunteer opportunities. If you missed it, you will have another opportunity in September. Hopefully, we will see you then. It's a great way to instantly feel like one of the group!



Membership Numbers

At our last meeting held in June, we had 238 members. After our meeting, we had 10 new members sign up for a total of 248 members! Thanks to all our members who are reaching out to friends, family, and neighbors and bringing them in. We so appreciate you!

Something New

Beginning at the August meeting, when you see someone with a ribbon tied around their badge lanyard, please say "howdy" and introduce yourself. You have just met a new member! Thanks for making all our new members feel welcome.

Special Prizes are being given to all members who bring in a new member. Don't let the summer go by without recruiting!

Member Relations, Ellie Cates

New & Improved Check-In at Meetings

Wow! Our numbers are growing, and our meeting attendance is soaring. To accommodate larger crowds, we have improved our check-in method. If you attended the June meeting, you saw that we divided our check-in lines alphabetically: A-L check-in on the left and M-Z on the right as you entered the room. We only ask that you try not to hold up the lines by visiting around the check-in table. Our goal is to get you in quickly so you can find a seat and go to the buffet.

We Need Volunteers! Here are ways you can help:

Call members prior to the meeting

Greet members and guests at the meeting

Work at the check in or membership tables

NEW! Serve as a table hostess to make sure all of our new members and guests feel welcome

Contact Ellie Cates if you would like to volunteer:

elliecates302@gmail.com

CARING FOR AMERICA,

Connie Stamps

As always, our members go the extra mile to help our neighbors in need. We've collected and distributed requested items for ProLife Waco for the Blessing Bag ministry, for Border Support, and for Care Net. Each donation was very much appreciated and speaks to your generous hearts and kindness.

As soon as we get the go-ahead, we will let you know when we are able to resume playing games with clients of Friends for Life.

Thank you so much for your participation during the past three months.

YOU make a difference in so many lives!



Above: MCRW was well represented at the St. Mark Lutheran Church on Clay Ave to join with Pro-Life Waco stuffing 'Blessing Bags'. These bags are handed out to women who are entering Planned Parenthood. The bags contain an assortment of items, from nail polish, hair brush and barrettes, hand sanitizer and very useful written information to encourage women to not have an abortion. Participating are Karen Lane, Connie Stamps, Ellie Cates, Cheryl Lenamon, Kay Sparks, Faye Wagner and Kathy Endres.

Call for DELEGATES coming soon!



Texas Federation of Republican Women
33rd Biennial Convention
October 13-16, 2021
Kalahari Resort
Round Rock, Texas

Registration and Information go to:
[TFRW.org/events/convention](https://www.tfrw.org/events/convention)

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