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Membership	Cheryl Lenamon
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Americanism	Sara Jones
Awards	Kathy Endres
Chaplain	Vicky Kendig
Parliamentarian	Judy Staples
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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



*TFRW Region No. 7
Senate District No. 22*

Newsletter

A Message from our President, Patty Castillo

And we're off . . . again!

It's the start of another year of championing our conservative causes! If you are a long-time member of MCRW or a newer member, you may have noticed that our work runs in two-year cycles. One year we are in the elections cycle, which includes either local, state, or national elections, and our precinct, county, and the Republican Party of Texas conventions. In the second, which is our legislative cycle, we work to further our causes during the Texas Legislative Session, we participate in the convention of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, and we elect our new MCRW Officers! Since 2023 is a legislative year, we are concentrating our work in the first part of the year on the 88th Legislative Session.



Our work began by voicing and showing our support for the RPT Legislative Priority to Ban Democrat Chairs. The good news is that Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, in his capacity as leader of the Texas Senate appointed an overwhelming majority of Republicans to lead the 15 Senate Standing Committees and only one Democrat. Unfortunately, we had a disappointing response from our Representatives in the Texas House and Speaker Phelan has now appointed nine Democrats to serve as Chairs of the 34 standing committees in the House. This is nine Democrats too many! MCRW had a strong showing in Austin to lobby our legislators in the House previous to the appointments, but our protests fell on deaf ears. However, we will not give up! We will continue our fight alongside the RPT.

And now we will work on the other four very important Legislative Priorities that we have identified for our club:



1. Protect our Elections
2. Ban Democrat Chairs
3. Ban Gender Modification of Children
4. Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids
5. Parental Rights and Educational Freedom

Continued on next page

This Legislative Session runs through May 29, and it is just beginning. It is not too late to get involved in whatever capacity you like – whether it is calling, writing postcards or emails, going to Austin to attend briefings (no experience necessary), or testifying before a House or Senate committee, your work is important!

Check your email for MCRW training to get you prepared.

Why? Whatever your “why”, whether it is for a cause you have worked on your whole life, something that caught your attention recently, or promoting causes that will leave a better Texas for you and your grandchildren, Texas needs YOU! Our legislators need to hear your voice. Be an advocate!

It is my honor to serve you as President of MCRW.

Patty

 CALENDAR	
88 th Texas Legislative Session	January 10 - May 29
MCRW Legislative Training – Part 2	March 1 @5:00 Republican HQ
MCRW General Meeting	March 14 @11:30 Baylor Club – Election Integrity
MCRW Board Meeting	March 21
Red Readers Book Club	March 23 @11:30 Our Breakfast Place

Vicky Kendig - Chaplain

Praying for our Officials -



Have you ever thought of praying for our officials who are political “enemies”? A friend of mine said, “Maybe we need to pray harder for them.”

How true!

MCRW is supplying prayer cards to our members on which we encourage you to write officials’ names to help focus your prayer each day. And, yes, it will probably hurt when you write “Joe Biden” and “Kamala Harris” in the top two lines of the card, the lines for President and Vice President!

We’re so blessed to have numerous great Republicans in our local, state, and national governments, but we cannot ignore the fact that Biden and Harris are leading our country—seemingly over the cliff.

God can change the heart of anyone. Let’s thank the Lord for our good, conservative officials but also pray for Him to show our adversaries the godly, true, and just paths to follow.

Research and Legislation Chair - Devvie Duke

The 88th Legislative Session is off and running in Texas and there is much work to be done!

Pay attention to bills filed by Republican AND Democrat legislators. Some bills are “wolves in sheep’s clothing” and meant to slip by ...

Follow bills at Texas Legislature Online <https://capitol.texas.gov/>

Rank Choice Voting – Not for Texas!

Devvie Duke MCRW Research and Legislation Chair

Eight bills have been filed by Democrats so far, in pursuit of bringing one dangerous Election Method to Texas. It is commonly known as “**Rank Choice Voting**.” Other terminology often used is “**Preferential Voting**” or “**Instant Run-off**.”

Sounds good! But what is Rank Choice Voting? It is a method of voting where a voter ranks all the candidates in a race by preference. If a candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, that candidate is declared the winner...much like in our current elections.

However, if no candidate wins a majority in the initial count, the “**Instant-Runoff**” begins in the matrix of trusty computers. Here is how....

The candidate with the fewest number of votes gets dropped from the ballot, and the people who selected that candidate as their top choice automatically have their votes changed to their second choice. The ballots are then counted again (and again) until a candidate is finally awarded the majority of votes. Or should I say the majority of remaining votes. If a voter did not rank all the candidates, their ballots may be thrown out in multiple rounds of counting. This is known as “**Ballot Exhaustion**” leading to “**Trash Can Ballots**.”

More than 141,000 ballots cast were completely discarded in a New York City mayoral race by the eighth round in 2021, which was 15% of the ballots cast.

In the Alaska congressional election in 2022, Republicans were favored by 60% in the first round, yet a Democrat won with 48.4% of total votes cast. 11,222 ballots were trash can ballots!

Not only can we not allow this to come to Texas, but we must work to have **Rank Choice Voting BANNED** in all Texas elections from the School House to the State House. Senator Brian Hughes will be carrying a bill to do just that! Send Senator Hughes and Thank you note and let’s help him get Rank Choice Voting banned in Texas.

Election Integrity

Debbie Wolgemuth & Marcia Michael, Election Integrity Co-Chairs

MCRW’s Election Integrity Committee researched these Legislative Priorities voted on at our June 2022 GOP convention:

- Restore felony penalties and enact civil penalties for Election Code violations, which shall be enforceable by any Texas jurisdiction, including the Texas Attorney General.
- Require citizenship verification of each voter.
- Restrict the distribution of mail-in ballots to only disabled, military, and citizens that are out-of-state.
- Reduce the time allowed for early voting and eliminate the three-day gap between early voting and election day.

- As technology evolves, we encourage the passage of legislation that ensures the security of our elections.

Our research culminated in a 25-page Election Integrity report, extensively detailing weaknesses in our election system to correct the above six points, which we delivered to each Texas State Rep and Senator in January.

We are now watching the posting of new Election Integrity bills. If you could like to be a part of MCRW's Election Integrity Task Force, calling/emailing about future Election Integrity bills, contact me at WolgemuthSD@msn.com.

If you are passionate about elections, please sign up for RPT Election Integrity Updates via the QR code below. Our 1 pager on Rank Choice Voting will be sent out soon!



School Library Books

Denise Ballew and Donna Schmidt, Co-chairs

Our MCRW committee is working on the legislative priority, Stop the Sexualization of Texas Kids. Texas schools have become inundated with obscene and inappropriate library books. * Identify – Through these resources, Texans Wake Up and 50 most banned books in schools, we looked at two of the largest school districts in the Waco area: Midway ISD and Waco ISD and identified library books containing all forms of sexual acts, homosexuality, and transgender content. * Outreach – Contacted Midway ISD administration. Our committee identified over 45 library books listed on their online library program at the Intermediate, Middle School and the High School levels. We met with, and corresponded with the district superintendent, board members, and spoke at school board meetings. Midway is currently performing an audit of those library books. Waco University High School – 73 Library books were identified. We will move forward to alert Waco ISD as to those books found through their online resource. * Legislative moves - Our committee is tracking a number of bills by Texas legislators, which if passed into law, will prosecute those responsible for the sale, distribution, or display of harmful materials to minors. * Correspondence – Following bills in both the Texas House and Senate. We are writing letters to our local and state representatives to encourage the signing of these bills into law to protect children. * Awareness – We are bringing attention to local community leaders, parents, and grandparents to partner in this concerted effort to remove all pornographic materials in our Texas schools.

Ban Democrat Chairs

Kathy Endres, Chair *Ban Democrat Chairs Committee*

At the Texas state Republican Party Convention in June 2022, eight Planks from the Republican of Party of Texas' Platform were selected as Legislative Priorities to be considered for passage by our Legislature this session. Among those priorities was Ban Democrat Chairs. Many of our MCRW women have worked on this Priority since September, sending emails to all elected Representatives and Senators, following-up with phone calls and post cards and more emails. McLennan County Republican Women also submitted a resolution to the House and the Senate, the only resolution other than that from the State Party!!

Why is this an issue?

Did you know that it has been a long held *tradition* for the Texas Speaker of the House of Representatives to appoint Democrats to Chair important committees, even though Republicans have the majority?!!! And it just happened again for the coming Legislative Session. But this year we did not go down without a fight.

On January 12, 24 MCRW members joined a busload of Republicans from Denton County and converged on the Capitol wearing red t-shirts. With 8 other buses from across the state, and many interested individuals, we filled the House Gallery! We were a very visible protest against the practice. Perhaps it was because of our presence that this year the number of Democrat Chairs is down by more than 35%!! We lost this battle but we have just begun to fight! In two years, we will definitely move the goalpost again, and we just may tear it down!!! Stay tuned.

Membership Chair, Cheryl Lenamon

It's going to be difficult to top our amazing 400 STRONG membership numbers of 2022. We actually ended the year with 350 regular members and 106 associate members, making our total membership 456!!! Election years always invigorate our members to reach out to friends and family.



And thanks to Patty O'Day who brought in 16 new members in 2022, we ended the year with a bang. For her amazing efforts, she won a free 2023 membership plus free lunches at each of the monthly meetings.

SPONSOR BOARD RECEPTION

In January the MCRW BOARD showed our appreciation for our generous Sponsor Board Members at a wine and cheese reception. Our theme was Celebrate 2023 – the end of Nancy Pelosi. A fun time was had by all!





(SPONSOR BOARD RECEPTION CONT.)



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

February 16 was the first New Member Orientation and Pizza Party of 2023. MCRW board members introduced new members to the many volunteer opportunities and the benefits of their membership to MCRW. But mostly, we listened to our new members and what they wanted to gain from being involved politically. Overwhelmingly, our new members hoped to make a difference and keep Texas Red.



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023

If you haven't renewed, it's time! All unrenewed memberships were delinquent on March 1. The easiest way to renew is to go online at MCRWpac.com and click on RENEW.

SHOUT-OUTS

Thanks to Membership Committee Volunteers. Did you know that many of my volunteers arrive at 10 AM before each meeting and stay until 2 PM? A shout-out to our amazing volunteers serving as Table Hostesses at our monthly meetings. Your efforts are so appreciated by our membership. Also to those who help at the Membership Table and set up stations for the table hostesses. You make everything run smoothly and your generosity of time is greatly appreciated.



March 14



Devie Duke
RPT SREC SD-22

Chair RPT Leg. Priority
“Protect Our Elections”



MCRW HAS BEEN GOING PLACES!





MCRW at the Capitol



Training on Advantage App for Blockwalking



Voter registration drive at "Protect the Border" Rally



Abbott Rally at George's Restaurant



Board Meeting

Political Activities Chair, Angelika Hoehner

We had a very successful campaign season in 2022. Volunteers spent many hours in training to use the Advantage App to facilitate our Get Out the Votes activities. As a result, several individuals spent Saturday mornings block walking, and later texting voters to get individuals out to the polls. In addition, numerous MCRW members participated in the election process as Election Judges, Clerks, Poll Watchers or served on the Signature Verification Ballot Board. In addition, several of our Voter Deputy Registrars participated in voter registration events leading up to the October deadline to register voters for the November general election.

As we begin 2023, those individuals who were Voter Deputy Registrars (VDRs) in 2022, need to refile to get their new certification for the 2023-24 term. The Elections Office has made changes to the process including a new application for VDRs (available at McLennan County Elections Office web site) and new voter registration forms. The new forms no longer require a receipt booklet. Instead, each VDR is given a voter deputy number that is written on the form. If you were a VDR last year and wish to continue in 2023-24, please stop at the Elections Office to complete your application and receive your new voter registration forms.

Thank you to all who routinely post their campaign hours to the MCRW Pac website. Your hours demonstrate a deep commitment to fostering Republican principles in your daily lives. As a result of your hard work, we catalogued 34,707 campaign hours for 2022, exceeding our goal of 22,000 hours. Thank you all for your hard work and determination!



Your MCRW Board meets
on the third Tuesday of
each month at 10 a.m. at
the Waco Central Library.



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Texas Federation of Republican Women: www.tfrw.org

National Federation of Republican Women: www.nfrw.org

Republican Party of Texas: www.texasgop.org

Republican Party of McLennan County: Email: info@mcclennanrepublicans.org

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