

March 2026  
TFRW Region VII, Senate District 22

Our Relaunch is in full swing. What began with a bang in January, continued through February with our wildly successful Meet 'n Greet. And there's more to come in Spring, so don't miss out!



## A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of MCRW,

I am so proud of our club. Thanks for showing up at our Meet 'n Greet. You showed the candidates you not only care about who they are, but you care about what they stand for. You are true patriots and informed voters.

I am proud that after our meeting in January with our outstanding speaker, John Guandolo you wanted to know what you could do about the threat of Islam in Texas. That's why we invited our March speaker, Debbie Georgatos. She is the RNC Committeewoman in Texas, a podcast host and deeply involved in the fight against Islam in Texas. She will help us move forward as we fight against Sharia law in our state, and tell us how to prepare for the midterm elections. Don't miss this important meeting.

I am proud that you are volunteers. That's why you will find many of our committees and chairs featured in this issue of the Insider. Choose a committee and let's get busy.

*Patty*



## Insider Highlights

March 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Speaker: Debbie Georgatos  
"Midterm Hot Button:  
Sharia vs. Freedom"

MCRW Board &  
Committee Chairs

Recap of Meet 'n Greet

Winter Catch-up Highlights

Feature with Dianne  
Hensley, Justice of the  
Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1

RPT Convention News

# MARCH General Meeting

**Guest Speaker: Debbie Georgatos**  
**Midterm Hot Button: Sharia vs. Freedom**

**March 10, Baylor Club**

Reservations Close Friday at Noon, March 6



**TICKETS**

After our meeting in January you wanted to know what you could do about the threat of Islam. That's why we invited our March speaker, Debbie Georgatos, our Republican National Committee (RNC) Committeewoman for Texas. She's a podcast host, a powerful voice for Texas grassroots, and deeply involved in the fight against Islam in Texas. She will tell us how to take action for the midterms. Don't miss this important meeting.



## Honors Our Veterans

In 2026, MCRW will be honoring the veterans in our community. At the March meeting, we will be taking donations of toiletries offered free to the Vets at the Veterans One Stop in Waco. This non-profit center provides mental health counseling, employment assistance, legal aid and peer support. One Stop acts as a central hub to connect veterans with resources for a smoother transition to civilian life.

### Please bring to the March Meeting

#### Travel Size -

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Razors
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Anti-Bacterial Wipes
- Floss
- Lip Balm
- Toothbrush, individually wrapped
- Toothpaste
- Comb
- Brush



# MCRW Board Committees &



Lori Whitsell  
Membership Chair  
loriwhitsmcrw@gmail.com

**"We'd love to have  
you join us as we  
grow our Membership."**

## Membership Committee

I joined MCRW almost four years ago to learn more about my community and make friends with like-minded people in the area. I am married with six adult children, two grandchildren and one on the way. I am a retired Special Education teacher, born and raised in Austin, but happy to live Waco, where we intend to stay.

### **Committee Description:**

Increasing our membership is our #1 priority. It is a team effort and the responsibility of all MCRW members. I am responsible for updating the membership list, renewals, making member name tags, hosting the membership table at each monthly meeting, sending monthly membership reports to TFRW, and preparing new member packets to give to all new members at our meetings.

### **Yearly Events & Activities:**

We host an annual Sponsor Board Appreciation Event for our top-level supporters, as well as larger events for MCRW celebrations. In addition, we host quarterly New Member Orientations to engage, interact and welcome new members. And initiate new member contests throughout the year!

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Greeting members at each meeting
- Calling, texting, emailing new members
- Hosting a membership table at local events
- Setting up before meetings
- Helping with Member Orientations
- Planning and helping with member parties



**Nikki Console**  
Member Relations Chair  
rconsole@aol.com

**"If you are outgoing, friendly  
and welcoming, our  
committee is for you!"**

## Member Relations Committee

My husband and I moved here from Southern California in the summer of 2020 after retiring. I retired after teaching elementary school for 30 years. I have my BA and my Master's Degree. I am a life long Christian. I have a daughter, two stepsons, and seven grandchildren. I love to travel and I LOVE NASCAR.

### **Committee description:**

Member Relations Committee is made up of 18 Callers/Texters and 14 Table Hostesses, and growing! My callers either call or text members a reminder to buy their luncheon tickets or remind them of special events. Table Hostesses welcome those sitting at their tables during our monthly luncheons. My committee members are a friendly and welcoming group of ladies.

### **Yearly Events and Activities:**

Member Relations Committee and the Membership Committee have an annual luncheon get-together. We have a social time, then we have trainings, group discussions where we exchange ideas of how to better serve our membership.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

We are always needing Table Hostesses, new callers and texters to our members and help with mailings. If you are unable to attend our meetings, this is a great way for you to be part of our group and be involved.





Nancy Keaton  
Political Activities Chair  
NNKeaton@gmail.com

**“We would like to empower you to be a political influencer.”**



## Political Activities Committee

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, I retired in 2020 after a 35-year career at Centralia College in Centralia, Washington, where I served as an administrator in Teacher Education and Family Development. I hold a master's degree in Public Administration and I bring decades of experience supporting educators, families, and public institutions. After moving to Texas in 2022, I have remained actively engaged in my new community through a variety of interests, such as freelance writing.

### Committee Description

The goal of the committee is to coordinate the activities of the club to help elect Republicans. Activities include encouraging members to report their volunteer hours, coordinating voter registration events, and holding events to help the community to get to know the candidates.

### Yearly Events and Activities:

- Candidate Meet and Greet Events
- Voter Registration Drives
- Participation in election work

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR)
- Become a poll worker or poll watcher or Election Judge
- Run for Precinct Chair
- Assist campaigns by making phone calls, walk-and-knocks, stuffing envelopes, delivering flyers, etc.



Ellie Cates  
Caring for America Chair  
elliecates302@gmail.com

**“Together, we can honor our Veterans, celebrate their contributions, and make a difference in their lives.”**



## Caring for America Committee

From an early age, I have always wanted to help and serve others. I became a dedicated educator, compassionate HR professional, and committed servant-leader in my church community. I am driven by a deep passion for nurturing growth in others, whether in the classroom, workplace, or spiritual life. My heart is to encourage, support, and uplift others.

### **Committee Description:**

The National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) established the Caring for America program in 1999 to encourage state federations and clubs to actively participate in at least one community service program. This year MCRW will be focusing our efforts exclusively to help and care for Veterans across our community. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of those who fought for the freedoms we hold dear.

### **Activities**

Throughout the year, there will be many club-wide activities and each month you will have the opportunity to join us as we honor and serve our Veterans.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

If you have a heart for veterans and would like to help us plan and participate in our activities, you are welcome! Our efforts will include accepting donations for Veterans' needs, visiting at various times throughout the year and supporting the America 250 Celebration.

# Mark Your Calendars - 4th Thursdays

Did you miss January & February?



## RED READERS

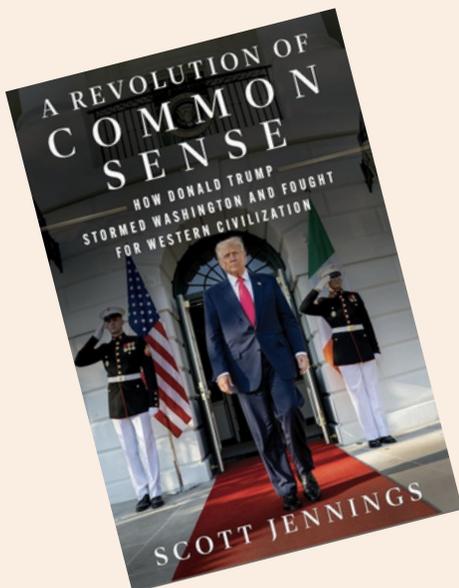


## BOOK CLUB

"Reading with a purpose"

In January, we had a great time laughing at Senator John Kennedy's on-the-money quips! In February, we tackled the critical issue of illegal immigration by Peter Schweizer. *The Invisible Coup* is a real eye-opener, and a must read for all citizens of the United States.

## Don't Miss March and our April Surprise



Join us March 26 from 11:30 to 1:30 at Our Breakfast Place. We will be discussing Scott Jennings new book, *A Revolution of Common Sense*.



# POLITICAL ACTIVITES UPDATE

MCRW hosted an incredibly successful Meet 'n Greet for our Republican Primary Candidates on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum. During the two hour event 35 State and Local Candidates spoke and greeted over 250 interested and informed voters!

A HUGE thanks to the candidates and members of our community who attended.



Each candidate was given a set time to speak and a table to greet voters and answer questions.

# Calendar of Events



## ↓ IMPORTANT DATES

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>March 10</b>   | MCRW General Meeting, Baylor Club 11:30 - 1PM         |
| <b>March 16</b>   | Precinct Convention, University H.S. 6PM              |
| <b>March 24</b>   | Board Planning Meeting, Baylor Club 10 - 2PM          |
| <b>March 26</b>   | Red Readers, Our Breakfast Place 11:30-1:30PM         |
| <b>March 28</b>   | County/SD Convention, University H.S. 9AM             |
| <b>April 14</b>   | MCRW General Meeting, Baylor Club 11:30 - 1PM         |
| <b>April 21</b>   | Board Meeting, Uncle Dan's 11 - 12:30                 |
| <b>April 23</b>   | Red Readers Special Suprise Meeting (TBA)             |
| <b>May 18-22</b>  | Runoff Primary Election Early Voting                  |
| <b>May 26</b>     | Runoff Primary Election                               |
| <b>June 11-13</b> | RPT Convention, George R. Brown Conv Cntr,<br>Houston |

↓ VOTE ↓ GET INVOLVED

# RPT Convention News

## Republican Activists – It's Time to Prepare!

Now that the Primaries are over, activists and activists-to-be (that's YOU) need to start planning how to best prepare for the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) Convention.

The RPT convention attracts a wide array of people who come together to elect Party leadership, and set our Platform and Legislative priorities. We go to make OUR voices heard.

### WHY GO TO CONVENTION?

As Conservative Republicans, we are losing our hold on Texas. We know about the threats, and many of you have asked, "What can I do now?" Well, this is your opportunity to DO SOMETHING!

### SAVE THESE DATES:

Precinct Convention March 16 6:00 pm University High School, Waco

County/SD Convention March 28 9:00 am University High School, Waco

Texas State Republican Convention June 11–13 George R Brown Convention Center, Houston

What is the only qualification to participate in the Republican Convention process?

Be a Registered Voter in your represented area and be Affiliated with the Republican Party:

·Having voted in the 2020 Republican Primary Election or take an Oath of Affiliation.

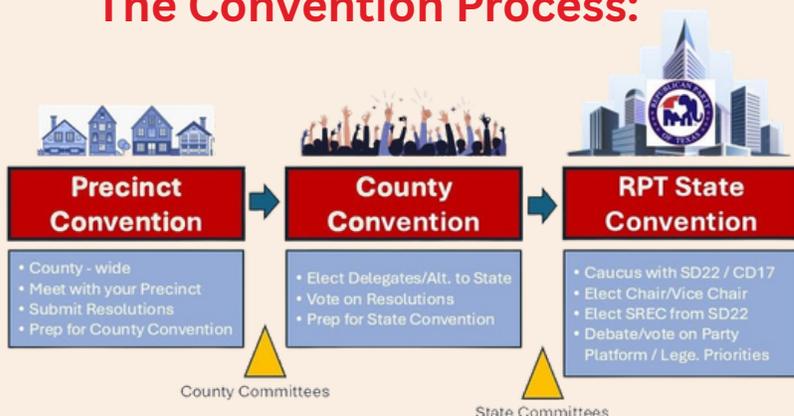
### IT ALL STARTS AT THE PRECINCT CONVENTION:

At the Precinct Convention, McLennan County activists meet within their precincts to conduct convention business and, most importantly, to submit RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions serve as expressions of the party's positions, goals, and directives on a variety of issues. Resolutions are first submitted at the Precinct Convention, then move through the convention process. At the State Convention, Resolutions may become part of the Party Platform and Legislative Priorities. YOU vote to determine the platform and priorities.

**NEXT STEPS:** 1. Save the dates for the Precinct, County and State Conventions. 2. Prepare your Resolutions and attend the Precinct Convention on March 16. 3. Be on the lookout for emails with links to Register and reserve your hotel in Houston.

## The Convention Process:



With our rapidly changing demographics, we need to increase the number of Conservative Republicans at this year's State Convention. We need MCRW Members and Associates to attend and make our voices heard.

# MEMBERSHIP

## It's Past Time to Renew Your Membership!

[Renew online by clicking here!](#)

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, if you have not renewed your membership, according to TFRW, your dues are now delinquent.

**Please Renew Today - We don't want to lose you!**

Our goal for 2026 is 400 MEMBERS. WE WANT TO BE THE BIGGEST CLUB IN TEXAS!  
So, bring a friend and sign them up!



If you are receiving text messages asking you to renew, it's because our records show you haven't renewed for 2026. Contact us if we are in error: [MCRWpac@gmail.com](mailto:MCRWpac@gmail.com)

## Membership Levels

REGULAR MEMBER	\$40
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$30
PATRON	\$100
SILVER SPONSOR BOARD	\$250
GOLD SPONSOR BOARD	\$500

Here's where your Membership Fees go:

\$25 from each member goes to NFRW/TFRW for yearly dues.

The remainder pays for support of GOP Candidates and club administration.



TFRW Legislation  
Robbi Hull, VP



TFRW Political Activities  
Gail Teegarden, VP

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on January 13th on two cases that prohibit biological males from competing on women's and girls' school sports teams. The challenged statutes come from West Virginia and Idaho. Texas passed similar statutes in 2021\* and 2023\*\*. Because the Supreme Court argument could affect the Texas statutes, we will follow this case and update you when the Court releases its decision.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral argument on Texas' "Ten Commandments" statute on January 20th. The court usually hears arguments on cases in panels of three judges. However, the court made the decision to hear this case sitting "en banc" by all 17 active judges. SB 10 (89(R)) requires public school classrooms . . .

#### WHAT A LOCAL CLUB CAN DO

Clubs may invite federal representatives and/or candidates to speak at regularly scheduled meetings at their regular meeting location. This includes allowing elected federal representatives to speak at club meeting about what they are doing in D.C. in that role. Candidates in a competitive race with other Republicans may speak on other topics or issues if they do not discuss their candidacy. They should be given a time limit to speak and be reminded not to speak about their opponents.

Clubs may invite federal representatives and/or candidates to visit and mingle with club guests. Campaign materials may be displayed on a table with other literature, but should not. . .

[To read the rest of the articles, please click here.](#)

MCRW members receive a monthly TFRW newsletter. It is full of both club news and political activities in our state and country. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please check your spam folder. If it is not there log into TFRW.org and ask that you be put on the mailing list.

# Get to Know our Local Judges



## Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 Place 1, Dianne Hensley

Contrary to widely-held public opinion, performing marriage ceremonies is not part of a judge's duties, nor could it be post-Obergefell. Article VI, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution and Article 1, Sec. 4 of the Texas Constitution, each provides that there will never be any religious test to hold any office or public trust under the United States, or the state of Texas, respectively.

If performing marriage ceremonies were a judicial duty, (and the U.S. now recognizes same-sex or any other non-traditional form of marriage), such a requirement would effectively establish a religious test for a person to hold office that would exclude traditional Christians, orthodox Jews, Muslims, and probably many other religious practitioners.

As to the Obergefell decision itself, I concur with Justice Scalia's sentiments: "A system of government that makes the people subordinate to a committee of nine unelected lawyers does not deserve to be called a democracy . . ." Nothing in the text of the constitution or the precedents of the court supports the majority's opinion. If the republic is to survive, I have no doubt Obergefell will eventually be overturned and the issue returned to the people, where it belongs. In the interim, I determined not to quietly forfeit rights guaranteed in the first amendment.

As many of you know, as a Justice of the Peace in Waco, I have been in a battle with the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct (Commission) for the last seven years. The issue at stake is only tangentially about same-sex marriage. The issue is actually whether bureaucrats at a state agency can use the Obergefell decision, which legalized same-sex marriage in the U.S., to wipe out the first amendment protections for the free exercise of religion and freedom of speech of elected judges in Texas.

I shouldn't have to say this, but I do not 'hate' homosexuals – or anyone else for that matter. My brother was living a homosexual lifestyle when he was diagnosed with ALS in 2012. By January 2013, he was incapacitated, dependent on a ventilator, and no longer able to live alone. He came to live with us and over the next three years as we took care of him, I got to know his friends quite well who came to visit him. In particular, there is one of his friends I will always love because he walked every step of that awful journey with us.

# Justice of the Peace, Dianne Hensley

After the Obergefell decision, I initially followed the advice of the Texas Justice Court Training Center (TJCTC) that JPs and other judges should either perform all marriages requested or none at all. This would keep a JP from being accused by the Commission of violating judicial canons by giving an appearance of bias arising from that person's extra-judicial activities.

I had been on the bench a grand total of six months when the Obergefell decision came out. There were many things I had yet to learn about my new position, so I followed the TJCTC advice to stop performing weddings since my sincerely held Christian beliefs would not allow me to participate in a same-sex wedding. I disagreed with the TJCTC's interpretation, but I thought surely some seasoned jurist would challenge it.

After all, using the Commission's questionable logic, criminal court judges who publicly run on a law and order platform opposing rape and murder, could be disqualified for having conveyed a bias against rapists and murderers.

After a year, no one had questioned the proposition that judges forfeit their free exercise and free speech rights when they take office. The phone kept ringing and couples kept coming by the office looking for a low-cost wedding. One day I actually had a young woman crying in our offices because she couldn't find anyone to marry her.

I became convinced that it wasn't right to inconvenience the vast majority because I couldn't accommodate a small minority. Obergefell is presently the law of the land and I had no desire to be hurtful or disrespectful to same-sex couples.

So before I resumed performing weddings, I compiled a list of every officiant in the McLennan County area who was willing to perform same-sex marriages. When a same-sex couple came by our office or called, my staff explained that I couldn't perform their marriage because of my Christian beliefs, but we would be happy to give them a list of officiants who could accommodate them. We never had a complaint. The Commission never had a complaint. In fact, the same-sex couples seemed genuinely happy to receive the list of officiants.

After about a year of peaceful coexistence, the Commission learned of my recusal and referral strategy and took exception. That began a legal saga that has now included perhaps the longest hearing in the Commission's history; several trips to district and intermediate-level appellate courts; a trip to the Texas Supreme Court; and an amazing amount of hateful, threatening, and even obscene mail.

On February 19, 2026, the 459<sup>th</sup> District Court in Travis County granted our Motion for Summary Judgment, affirming, as the Texas Supreme Court said that *it is not a violation of the judicial canons for a justice of the peace or other judge to publicly recuse him or herself from performing a same-sex marriage for religious reasons, but it is a violation of my rights under the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act for the Commission to sanction me for insisting it respect my first amendment rights.*

It remains to be seen if the Commission will appeal this decision.

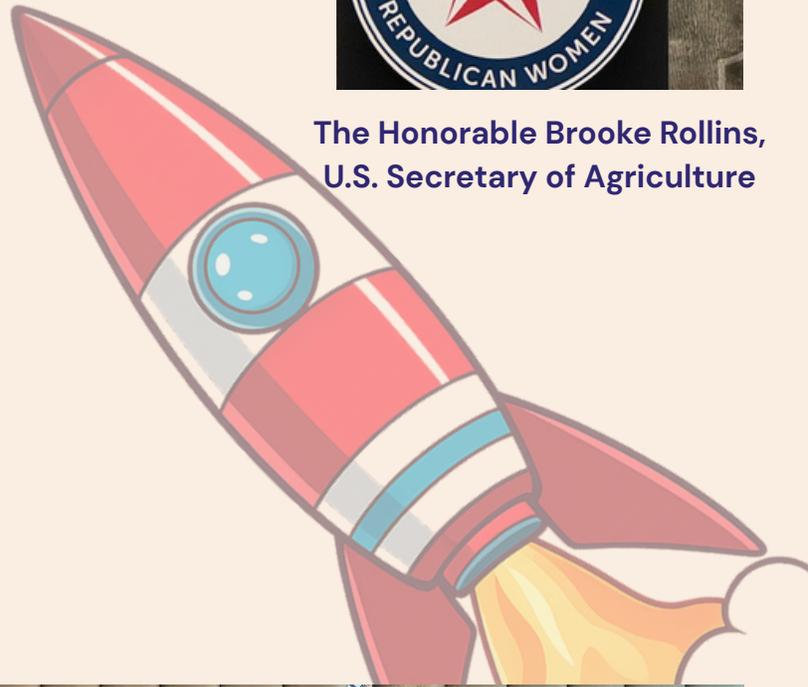
# Winter Round-Up

Just in case you missed some of our fun and meaningful events this winter.

TFRW Leadership Day, January 10 in Ft. Worth



January 2026 Relaunch Meeting



The Honorable Brooke Rollins,  
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

# Sponsor Board Party

Our generous sponsor board members enjoyed an appreciation party at Ridgewood Country Club in January.



# A Valentine's Day Thank You

In February, our faithful callers, texters and table hostesses were honored at a Valentine's Day luncheon. These ladies continued their service by writing 60 Valentine Messages to Veterans in our community.



*Thank You Ladies*





# OFFICERS & BOARD

## OFFICERS

### President

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### Parliamentarian

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MCRW is a member of the the [National Federation of Republican Women](#) and the [Texas Federation of Republican Women](#), Region VII , Senate District 22

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