

May 2026

TFRW Region VII, Senate District 22



A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of MCRW,

As we celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of our great nation, let's remember the word at the heart of that historic document: FREEDOM.

In uncertain and turbulent times, freedom doesn't defend itself. If we don't stand up for our freedoms, they can be weakened—piece by piece—until they're gone.

So, while it is a time to celebrate, it is a time to strengthen our resolve to fight for:

- Freedom and opportunity for *all*
- Freedom to stand for our God-given rights
- Freedom to pursue the American Dream
- Freedom to choose our leaders—and hold them accountable
- Freedom to bear arms
- Freedom to choose life
- Freedom to praise God

What FREEDOM are you willing to fight for—today?

Patty



Insider Highlights

May 12 Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Lathan Watts

Alliance Defending Freedom

MCRW Board &
Committee Chairs

Members who have
stepped up

Q&A with Janell Gilman,
Woodway City Council

Spring Catch-up Highlights

What's a Filibuster?

VA Bingo

Order your America 250
T-Shirt

MAY General Meeting



Lathan Watts
Alliance Defending Freedom

Guest Speaker:

Lathan Watts

**America 250: The Unique Relationship
between the Declaration of Independence
and our Constitution**

May 12, Baylor Club

Reservations Close Friday at Noon, May 8

Alliance Defending Freedom is the world's largest legal organization committed to protecting religious freedom, free speech, the sanctity of life, parental rights, and God's design for marriage and family. When liberty is threatened, ADF stands ready to defend it.

TICKETS



Honors Our Veterans

In 2026, MCRW will be honoring the veterans in our community. At the May meeting, we will be taking donations 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 May Meeting:

Regular Size -

- Shaving Cream
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash
- Body Lotion
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Women's Underwear (all sizes)
- Hair Brushes



TEXAS GOP CONVENTION DELEGATES



MCRW Members

Charles Beach

Marilyn Bishop

Melisa Cooper

Sandra Crevier

Julie Croy

Patricia Cummings

Pat Curry

Alicia Curry

Jeanie Davis

Devvie Duke

Jon Gimble

Penny Gimble

Nancy Goebel

Angela Granger

Lina Gutierrez

Mary Hanna

Tammy Hector

Dianne Hensley

Tanya Jeffries

Donna Jernigan

Janet Joscelyne

Loren Kendig

Victoria Kendig

Jon Ker

Terri Ker

Janie LaCroix

Mollie Leutwyler-Smith

Hazel Martin

Patty O'Day

Doreen Plott

Helen Quiram

Suzy Robinson

David Russell

Aida Scott

Pete Sessions

Connie Stamps

Mercedes Stovall

Josh Tetens

Stephanie West

Ernie Wheeler

Barbara White

Lori Whitsell

Jeffrey Williams

Patti Williams

Nancy Williams

Debbie Wolgemuth

Jane Wright



**Half of the
McLennan
County
Delegates
to the
Texas GOP
Convention
are MCRW
members!**

*Thank You
Delegates!*

MCRW PRECINCT CHAIRS

The call went out and our members responded: 18 of our MCRW go-getters are the chairs for their precincts.

A McLennan County precinct chair acts as the grassroots leader and local representative for their party. Here are their duties:

- Represent the Republican Party in the precinct
- Identify and register voters in the precinct
- Turn out the vote in the precinct
- Serve on the County Executive Committee
- Work the elections
- Run the precinct convention

*Thank You
Precinct Chairs*

2026 Precinct Chairs

- Chuck Beach
- Marjean Clements
- Jeanie Davis
- Angela Granger
- Lina Gutierrez
- Tamberlyn Hector
- Norma Heslep
- Barbara Kasmiroski
- Barbara Kent
- Christina McKay
- Jennifer Schubert
- Helen Quiram
- Connie Stamps
- Mercedes Stovall
- Donna Swartz
- Barbara White
- Nancy Williams
- Lori Williams
- (not listed are those who recently won their seat)

VOLUNTEER DEPUTY REGISTRAR

Thank you to our members who went through training and are able to register new voters.



Lori Lambright
Barbara Cross
Sandra Crevier
Charlene Umberger
Delores Loyd
Elizabeth Naumann-Larios

If you would like to help register voters, be on the lookout for the next training in later summer.

Get to Know Your Board



The MCRW Board

Patty Castillo
Rebecca Eubank
Lori Whitsell
Vicky Kendig
Beverly Fallon
Barbara Cross
Ellie Cates
Cheryl Lenamon
Angelika Hoeher
Nikki Console
Nancy Keaton
Stephanie West
Judy Staples



The MCRW board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to conduct club business. The 13 members of the board consist of the officers and chairs of both standing and special committees. The officers and the board serve for a two-year term, and can serve for two consecutive terms according to MCRW bylaws. This working board plans events, hears committee reports, oversees expenditures, and makes sure the needs of our club members are met. Board meetings are always open to our members, and feedback is welcomed.

The following four pages continue a biographical sketch of our board and their responsibilities. In March, we featured Membership, Member Relations, Political Activities, and Caring for America.



Cheryl Lenamon
Communications Chair
cheryl.lenamon@gmail.com

"If you'd like to share your creativity with our members, we need you!"



Communications Committee

Before retiring I owned an Ad Agency, which sure helps in my current position as Public Relations Chair. Originally from St. Louis, I moved to Texas as soon as I could and have lived here for 50 years with my husband, Ronnie, our four children, seven grands and four greats plus many, many pets – most notably my big and shaggy, doodle dog, Max. It has been my pleasure to serve MCRW first as Membership Chair and now as your PR person.

Committee Description:

The Communications committee is responsible for producing the *Insider*, our bi-monthly newsletter, social media posts, emails, graphic text messages, brochures, logos, business cards, signs, graphics for slides, website and anything else that communicates the MCRW message. I work closely with Terry McDonald who is our tech expert. Our goal is to create communications that elevates the MCRW brand, clearly informs, inspires our members and entices new members to join our dynamic club.

Yearly Events and Activities:

Communications is involved in every activity the club sponsors – whether it is a general meeting or a special event.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Photography – I'd like photos from all of our events. If you are in a group with MCRW members, take a photo and pass it on.
- Web Site design
- Social media – know how to create TikTok videos to appeal to a younger generation? We need you!
- Canva design. Know how to create in Canva? Let me know!
- Content Creation
- Press contacts



Angelika Hoehner
Legislative Chair
propertygirl@icloud.com

"If you like to use your research skills, and would like to make a difference in Texas policies, I'll have a spot for you in 2027!"

Legislative Committee

I have been a member of MCRW since moving to Texas from New York state in 2018. I previously held the position of Campaign Activities Chair for MCRW. In 2024, I was honored by TFRW as a Tribute to Women Honoree. I am committed to election integrity and have worked for several years on the McLennan County Signature Verification Board.

Committee Description:

The Legislative Committee's purpose is to keep the MCRW membership informed on legislative acts or pending legislation. In addition, this committee strives to inform members of the legislative process and opportunities to participate in this process.

Yearly Events and Activities:

Unless a special session is called, the Texas Legislature will not meet in 2026, but will resume its work in 2027.

Volunteer Opportunities:

During the Legislative Session in 2027 every member will have an opportunity to engage in one of the priority bills MCRW selects. Committees will be formed to research and become activists in the process. We offer the opportunity to learn as well empower our members to make a difference in Texas politics.





Judy Staples
Parliamentarian
judy@judystaples.com

Parliamentarian

I retired from an educational career after teaching in inner city elementary classrooms for 10 years, followed by 30 years in educational administration, the last 14 as Superintendent of Schools in four school districts in Western New York. I hold an earned doctorate in Educational Organization, Administration and Policy. In addition to my training and experience as a parliamentarian, I enjoy genealogical research, sewing, baking, and scrapbooking. I love ocean cruising and travel (all 50 US states and over 50 other countries). Three of my four children graduated from Baylor University, so my late husband, George, and I moved to Waco in retirement where I can anticipate my Baylor grads visiting on one of the fall home football game weekends!

My responsibility is to keep our general meetings and monthly board meetings running according to our bylaws and Robert's Rule of Order so that our club can come to fair decisions in a calm and respectful way. In addition, I prepare and present to the board each month a parliamentary training document so that the board members become familiar with the rules that govern our procedures.



MCRW Board Meeting



Barbara Cross
Bylaws Chair

**MCRW Bylaws are posted
for our members on our
website: MCRWpac.com**

Bylaws

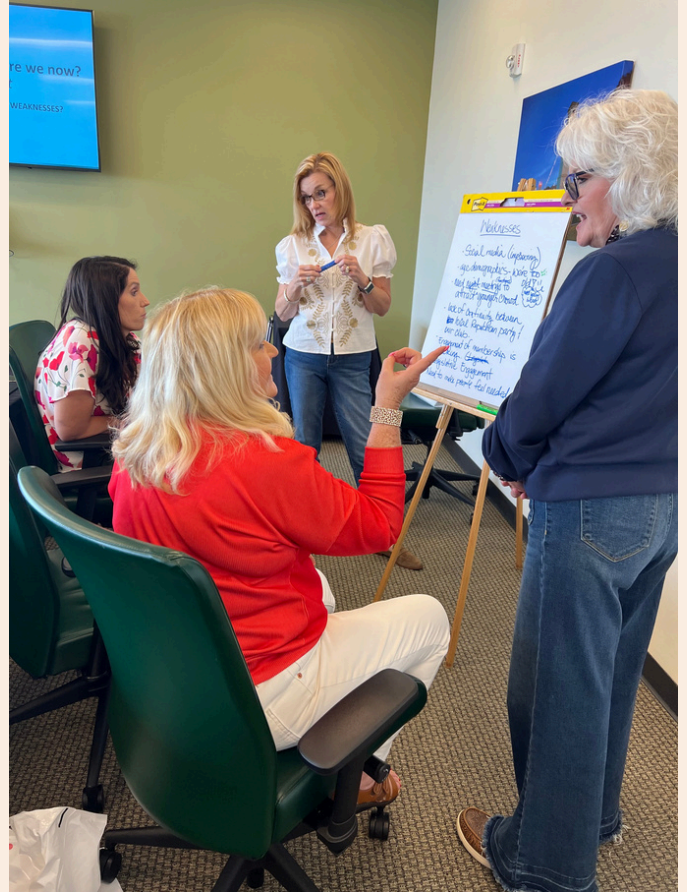
I'm a wife, mother, and retired educator. I taught English and French at the high school level for six years and then switched to the intermediate level and taught sixth grade at Midway ISD for 18 years. After earning my master's degree in administration, I served at the elementary assistant principal for curriculum and instruction at China Spring ISD until retirement. I truly loved my career in education, but I love retirement more! It has given me the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends and to pursue my hobbies and interests. I'm an avid crafter, furniture refinisher, and political junkie! I'm a conservative Christian to my very core.

It is truly a privilege to serve on the MCRW Board. Bylaws are internal, legally binding rules that govern our club's operations, structure, and management, such as procedures for meetings, elections, and officer responsibilities. Basically, the bylaws give structure to the way our club runs. The bylaws are routinely updated at the national, state, and local level every two years. For Texas clubs, updates happen most commonly after the TFRW convention. The Bylaws Committee has been hard at work revamping and updating our current bylaws to align more closely with the Texas Federation of Republican Women, our state affiliate, and expect to be finished soon.



BOARD PLANNING WORKSHOP

The MCRW Board's March workshop was both productive and insightful. Focusing on the club's mission, board members discussed how to build on strengths and improve weaknesses. This teamwork led to a clear plan for the year ahead.



Planning – to Improve MCRW



MEMBERSHIP

It's Past Time to Renew Your Membership!

[Renew online by clicking here!](#)

2026 Membership was due by March 1, however, we are still accepting memberships for this year.

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 or phone calls 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

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.



SPONSOR BOARD 2026

We thank You for Your Support!

Gold

Carolyn Adams
Chuck Beach
Janet Braden
Michael Braden
Rep. David Cook
Rep. Pat Curry
Kathy Endres
Rebecca Eubank

Angelika Hoeher
Michael Kuhne
Will Jones
Jon Ker
Teri Ker
David Littlewood
Cong. Pete Sessions
Rita Smotherman
Barrett Thomas

Silver

Judy Bauer
Mary Burgess
Ivan Castillo
Patty Castillo
Nikki Console
Barbara Cross
Devvie Duke
Chris Eubank
Jon Gimble
Barbara Hair
Mary Hanes
Dianne Hensley
Ann Hough
Nancy Keaton
Susan Kelly
Vicky Kendig

Vicky Lytle
John Piscotta
Barbara Putnam
Rosemary Mayes-Rafuse
Terry McDonald
Helen Quiram
Patti Short
Connie Stamps
Judy Staples
Kristin Story
Rick Tullis
Carla Vallejo
Dawn Whelan
Barbara White
Bill Whitsell
Lori Whitsell



Anybody else confused about the “Talking Filibuster”?

Excerpts from article by Robbi Hull,
TFRW VP Legislation

I learned about the “talking” filibuster that seems to be dominating the news coverage as Republicans try to pass the SAVE America Act (S. 3752) which, in elections for federal office, will require voter ID at election polling locations and proof of citizenship for new voter registrations or for existing registrations that require updating (change of address, change of name).

The “talking” filibuster is the “original” filibuster. It has been in the Senate rules since 1806. From 1806–1917 (when cloture was introduced), the only way to end debate was to stop talking!

In 1917, the Senate adopted the cloture procedure which required two-thirds (67) of the senators to vote to end debate. In 1975, the Senate reduced the number of votes required for cloture to three-fifths (60) of all Senators “duly chosen and sworn.”

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

Key Aspects of the Talking Filibuster:

- **The 60-Vote Threshold:** Even with a talking filibuster, 60 votes are typically needed to end the debate (cloture), though a simple majority of 51 is sufficient to pass the bill itself.
- **Physical Presence:** Unlike the modern “silent” filibuster, a talking filibuster requires opponents to be present on the Senate floor, speaking to delay a vote.
- **Ending the Filibuster:** If proponents cannot reach 60 votes, the talking filibuster continues, or opponents can be required to hold the floor, which can potentially stop Senate business.
- **Quorum Calls:** If supporters have 51 senators present, they can sometimes force a “live” quorum call to force a vote, but in a talking filibuster, opponents try to keep the debate going to prevent a final vote.

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 Elected Officials



Woodway City Councilwoman Janell Gilman

Put simply: we make the rules, control the money, and listen to what people want. It sounds straightforward, but in practice it is far more complex. Cities function day to day as a network of essential services; many of which residents rarely see, but rely on constantly. At the same time, public opinion, even at the local level, is rarely unified. Council members must navigate competing priorities and, at times, conflicting expectations from the very people they represent.

That challenge is compounded by the broader governing environment. Even in a home-rule state like Texas, cities are encountering increasing constraints imposed by the state legislature, narrowing the scope of local discretion and fiscal control while costs continue to rise.

The role of City Council, then, is not simply to listen, but to listen critically—to weigh incongruent public desires against legal realities, fiscal limitations, and long-term consequences. It requires sorting through complex and often incomplete information to make decisions that not only reflect community input, but also protect the city's capacity to serve its residents.

How did I get to be a member of the Woodway City Council?

Actually, thinking back, McLennan County Republican Women (MCRW) played a major part in where I am today. I have been a member for twenty plus years. I have heard it said in countless meetings, "Get involved in your community, schools, government and churches," etc. I got involved by attending meetings, then volunteering to help get program speakers and collecting the campaign hours. I attended state meetings and volunteered to work elections as a Clerk for several years and became an Assistant Judge.

On paper, a City Council represents the public and makes decisions about how a city operates, grows, and allocates its resources. They approve the annual budget and major expenditures, pass ordinances, oversee the City Manager, and help set the long-term direction of the city,

Woodway City Councilwoman Janell Gilman

Woodway is divided into Wards. You must live in the Ward which there is a vacancy and I did. It turned out I didn't have an opponent, so I didn't have to have a campaign. That was a big relief!

When I first joined the Council, I was led to believe the City had serious leadership problems and were not living up to the expected standards. After about three months, I was very pleasantly surprised to find that the leadership and staff were not only well equipped for their responsibilities, but they were eager to carry out their duties and meet the needs of the Woodway residents.

Each Council Member is assigned projects. I was assigned Chairwoman of a team charged with bringing the current comprehensive strategic plan up-to-date. It serves as a blueprint for future development and decisions in regard to quality of life, responsible growth, and a sense of community. State law says zoning regulations must be adopted in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Woodway had a plan, but it had not been updated in twenty years. The updated Woodway Forward plan is available at <https://woodwaytexas.gov/woodway-forward/>. I was privileged to be part of a team shaping the future of the community and leaving a lasting legacy for the City of Woodway.

The City Council terms are three years, with a maximum of three terms. After I served the first term of three years I made the decision to run again. This time I did have an opponent and it was a whole different ballgame. Fortunately, I was running with two gentlemen for two other seats and we teamed up. They also had opponents. It was quite a race. We held Meet & Greets, block walked and shook hands, but, I don't think we kissed any babies. The three of us won by a large margin. For the first time I felt like a politician.

So what does it take to be a good Council member? The same thing it takes in any encounter with people. Be a good listener and show people you care. Stephen Covey in his book "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" says, "Listen first to understand, then to be understood." It is a privilege to be part of a team shaping the future of the community and leaving a lasting legacy for the City of Woodway.

**"McLennan County
Republican Women
(MCRW) played a
major part in where I
am today."**

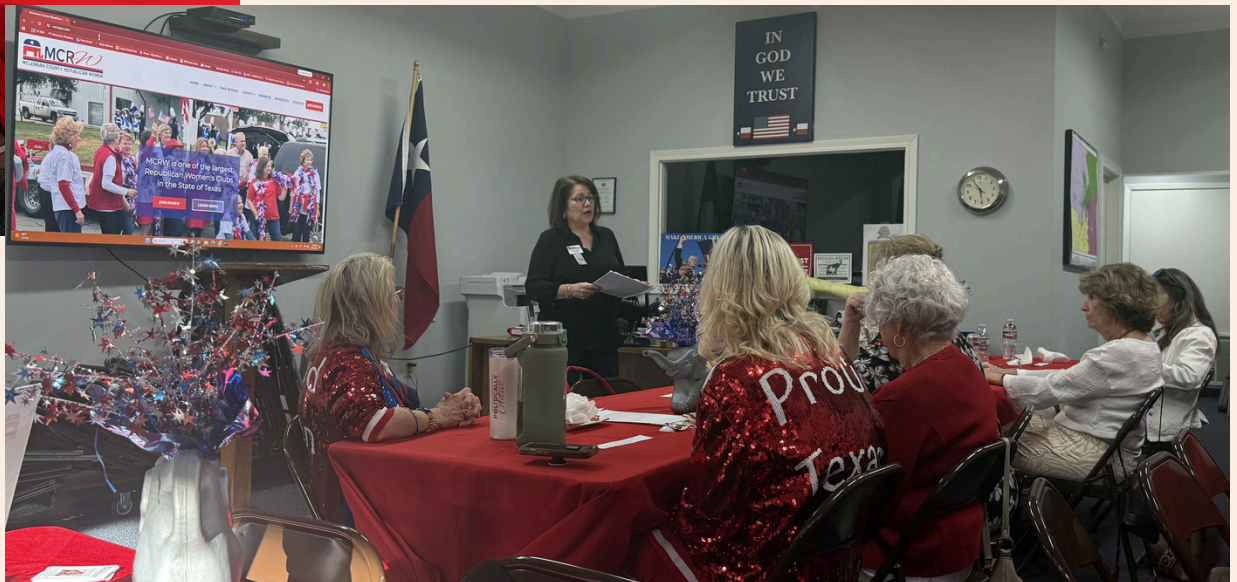
Spring Round-Up

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

**MCRW March
General Meeting
with Debbie
Georgatos:
Freedom vs.
Sharia**



March New Member Orientation



Honoring Retiring Senator Brian Birdwell

MCRW April
General Meeting
Honored retiring
Senator Brian
Birdwell for his
16 years of service.



Quilt of Valor



Quilters with a Heart recognized Lt. Colonel Brian Birdwell with an American 250 Commemorative Quilt.

Thank You for Your Service!

Red Readers Relaunch

Author of *Counterfeit Culture*, Keith Brown shared experiences from her life at Homestead Heritage at the April Red Readers Book Club.



Everyone received the gift of a book tote and pen. Many lucky attendees won prizes.



We had a packed-out house. It was fun, fun, fun!

Calendar of Events



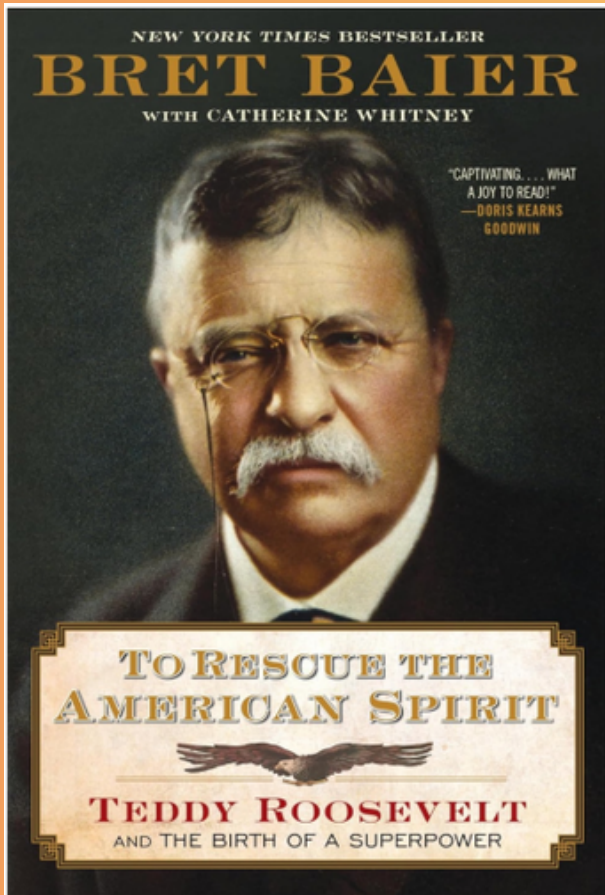
↓ IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|------------|---|
| May 2 | City/School Elections |
| May 12 | MCRW General Meeting, Baylor Club 11:30 - 1PM |
| May 14 | VA Bingo, One Stop 1-3PM |
| May 19 | Board Meeting, Uncle Dan's 11 - 12:30 |
| May 18-22 | Runoff Primary Election Early Voting |
| May 26 | Runoff Primary Election |
| May 28 | Red Readers Book Club, Our Breakfast Place 11:30 - 1:30PM |
| June 9 | MCRW General Meeting, Baylor Club 11:30 - 1PM |
| June 11 | VA Bingo, One Stop 1-3PM |
| June 11-13 | RPT Convention, George R. Brown Conv Cntr, Houston |
| June 16 | Board Meeting, Uncle Dan's 11 - 12:30 |
| June 25 | Red Readers Book Club, Our Breakfast Place 11:30 - 1:30PM |

↓ VOTE ↓ GET INVOLVED

Mark Your Calendars - 4th Thursdays

May 28 Book Selection

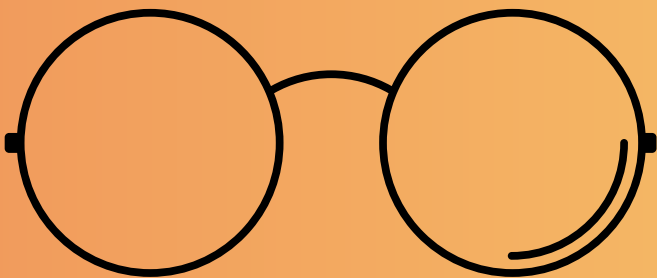


RED READERS

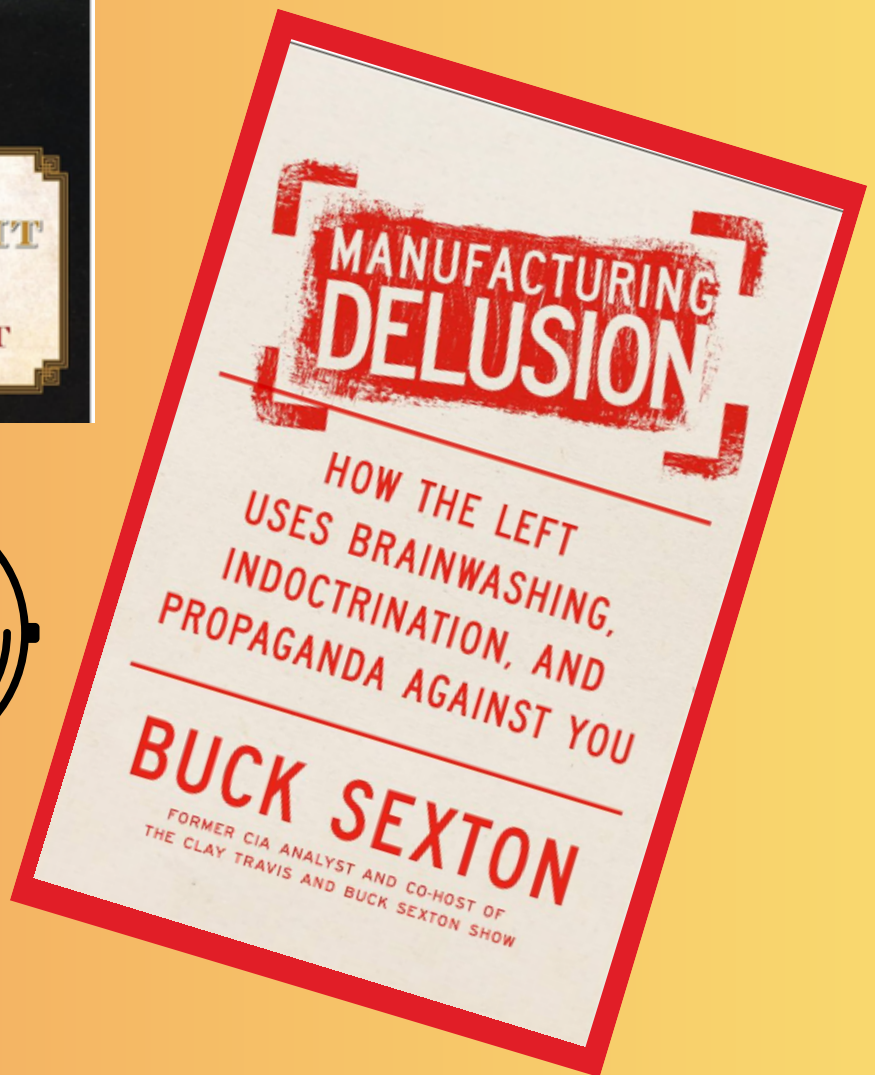


BOOK CLUB

"Reading with a purpose"



June 25 Book Selection



Join us from 11:30 to 1:30 at Our Breakfast Place.
Come early to order lunch.



**Caring
for
America**

VA BINGO



Every 2nd Thursday of the month, we play Bingo with the Vets at Veterans One Stop, 2010 LaSalle Ave. Waco.

If you would like to come and join the fun from 12:45 to 3PM, or donate a prize such as an HEB gift card, email Ellie Cates: elliecates302@gmail.com



Pre-Order Your Celebration T-Shirts

Now through May 12th - Pick up at the June Meeting



Unisex S, M, L, XL, XXL

T-Shirts available only by pre-order

\$25

ORDER NOW



OFFICERS & BOARD

OFFICERS

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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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