



Second Quarter 2023

[www.mcrwtx.org](http://www.mcrwtx.org)

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## *From the President's Desk*

Our Midland County Republican Women Club members have been very busy during the spring. We have been growing our membership, planning worthwhile and informative programs, supporting our Caring for America projects, supporting our legislators as they are in session, and working hard to preserve our democratic principles and freedoms. Our legislative updates, given by our Legislative Chair Micah Dunn, have been invaluable in our efforts to be fully informed voters and supporters of the Republican Party. May we continue to work hard to **KEEP TEXAS RED!**

For your information, our General Meeting Schedule is included in this newsletter. Please mark your calendars to attend all our monthly luncheon meetings. We will not be meeting during the months of June and July. However, we will have a general meeting in August 2023. Our calendar will reflect that the August meeting will be on August 9, 2023, at Midland Country Club, 11:30-1:00 PM.

There is still time to join or renew your membership for 2023. Membership applications are always available during our general meetings. Our Membership table is set up near the entrance to the MCC Ballroom, where

we have our meetings. You may also join online at [mcrwtx.org](http://mcrwtx.org). Payment may be processed with a credit card online or you may print a hard copy of the application, complete the application, indicate your form of payment, and mail it to the following address:

Midland County Republican Women  
 P. O. Box 4024  
 Midland, Texas 79704

We hope to see you at our meetings. Please bring a friend(s) and follow us on our Facebook page. If you have any questions, please email us at [info@mcrwtx.org](mailto:info@mcrwtx.org).

*Judy Canon, President of Midland County Republican Women*





*Elizabeth Moore*

# Scholarship



*Gayla Mabee*

Fellow MCRW members -

In 2023, we had the honor of co-chairing the Midland County Republican Women's Scholarship Committee. Many outstanding high school seniors applied for this scholarship. During our MCRW General Meeting in May, we presented the 2023 MCRW Scholarship to Reagan Cole, a student who was a stand-out in her class and who excelled academically, civically, and athletically.

Reagan Cole is a senior at Midland High School. During her high school career, Reagan served on Student Council; she was the Secretary for the Model Organization of American States; she was a 3 year Athletic Letterman; and she was a 4 year Academic Letterman. As a Midland Symphony Guild Belle, Reagan volunteered for the West Texas Food Bank, Midland Fair Havens, and the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, to name a few.

In the fall, Reagan will attend Texas A&M University. According to Sara Anderson who is an Academic Dean at Midland High School, "Reagan is kind, creative, driven and works flawlessly with others. She is a true collaborator and team player. I believe that Reagan Cole will add great value to any college or university she attends. She will no doubt be a role model for her fellow peers and will not squander any opportunity she receives. Her tenacity and academic drive will prove to ensure her success." When Reagan was awarded her scholarship at the MCRW May General Meeting, she was accompanied by her proud parents, Jaime and Tommy Cole.

Thank you!  
**Gayla Mabee and Elizabeth Moore**



*Reagan Cole pictured here with her parents, Jaime and Tommy Cole.*



*Elizabeth Moore (left) and Gayla Mabee (right) congratulate Reagan Cole (center).*

# *MCRW April General Meeting Guest Speakers*

At our April 12, 2023, General Luncheon Meeting, we were fortunate to have Mayor Lori Blong as our guest speaker. Mayor Blong served on the Midland City Council before being elected to her position as Mayor. Her passion for Midland shines through as she leads Midland using God-given resources to create a high quality of life on the foundation of strong fiscal responsibility, workforce development, public safety, and customer service at City Hall.

The audience was very interested in the many projects that the City is planning and executing. A handout with City Projects, Events & Fun Facts as of April 11, 2023, was distributed to the audience. A former teacher, Mayor Blong and her husband, Jared, now own and operate Octane Energy. They have three children and attend Stonegate Fellowship Church.

City Council member Amy Stretcher Burkes was also a guest speaker and presenter. Amy serves on the MCRW Executive Committee as Hospitality Co-Chair. She is a native Midlander and is very active in the Republican Party. During her presentation, Amy shared how she became aware of city leadership and the need to become a part of the process in support of police, firefighters, and investment of critical infrastructure. Amy and her husband, Dr. Jonathan Burkes, have three daughters.

City Council member Robin Poole was also present and discussed her role as a city leader. She is a member of the Midland County Republican Women's Club. Along with Mayor Blong and Council Member Burkes, she participated in the informative question and answer portion of the program.



*Midland's Mayor Lori Blong, guest speaker at the MCRW April 2023 General Meeting.*



*City Council Member Amy Stretcher Burkes, guest speaker at the MCRW April 2023 General Meeting.*

# *From Senator Kevin Sparks*

## **SENATOR SPARKS NEWSLETTER**

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Every legislative session, the Lieutenant Governor identifies thirty bills that he believes are a priority for Texas. This session, the Texas Senate has successfully passed all thirty. As a representative of our community, I want to highlight three of these bills that I believe are crucial to our district and its future. These bills address: water deficits, retired teachers' compensation, and child protection from sexually explicit performances. All Texans, especially we legislators, are responsible for preserving Texas values and the wellbeing of our citizens. Below, I would like to bring some of our important work this session to your attention.

### **Senate Bill 28 – Texas Water Fund**

The longstanding water needs of West Texas are always pertinent. Based on the projected growth of population and water usage estimates, the state will have a shortage of 7 million acre-feet per year by 2070. Senate Bill (SB) 28 establishes the Texas Water Fund to address and correct this water crisis. The Texas Water Fund will put real dollars into long-term water planning in the State of Texas. SB 28 also includes provisions for research into aquifer recharge and recycling of oil and gas-produced water, of which millions of barrels are produced daily. SB 28 passed unanimously out of both legislative chambers and is currently sitting in conference committee.

### **Senate Bill 10 – Teachers' Retirement Compensation**

Teachers impact the future of Texas through the education of our youth. We must allot adequate compensation for those retired teachers who helped make the Texas we know today. These retirees were my teachers, your teachers, and our children's teachers. As they retire, we must care for them like they cared for all of us. I co-authored SB 10 with my fellow senators to show our appreciation for teachers, both current and past. SB 10 passed unanimously out of the Texas Senate and out of the Texas House with 144 (out of 150) votes. It is currently sitting in conference committee.

### **Senate Bill 12 - Child Protection From Sexually Explicit Performances**

It's our responsibility to safeguard Texas children from harm in all its forms. With recent events in our senate district, it isn't enough that we ban children from attending drag shows but also prevent drag shows from coming to where children gather. Public parks and other public spaces are not the proper place for these events. Children have no place watching a drag show, which is why I voted in favor of SB 12. The bill has passed out of both chambers and is currently waiting to pass out of conference committee.

My role in this process as a senator has been highly fulfilling, and I strive daily to use my position for the betterment of my constituents and all Texans. As the session concludes, we await the governor's signature for legislation that has made it to his desk. I look forward to being home in the district, and thankfully, Sine Die (Last Day) is almost upon us.

# MCRW May General Meeting Guest Speakers

At the MCRW General Meeting on May 10, 2023, we were fortunate to have a panel discussion of our Midland First Responder leaders during Public Service Recognition Week. The discussion was led by Judge Leah Robertson of the 385th District Court. Judge Robertson also serves as our Bylaws Chair on our MCRW Executive Committee.

We were honored to have such an outstanding panel of community leaders to share information regarding their positions and their roles as First Responders. The informative discussion was appreciated and well received by all in attendance. Thank you to all of Midland's First Responders for keeping us safe and secure.



*Judge Leah Robertson leads the panel of First Responders at the MCRW May 2023 General Meeting.*



**David Criner**  
Midland County Sheriff



**Seth Herman**  
City of Midland Chief of Police



**Justin Bunch**  
Midland County Emergency Management Coordinator



**Charles Blumenauer**  
City of Midland Fire Chief

# *MCRW Meeting Dates for 2023*

## **April 2023**

General Meeting  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
11:30 at Midland Country Club

## **May 2023**

General Meeting  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023  
11:30 AM at Midland Country Club

## **June & July 2023**

No Meetings – unless Called

## **August 2023**

General Meeting  
Wednesday August 9, 2023  
11:30am at Midland Country Club

## **September 2023**

General Meeting  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023  
11:30 AM at Midland Country Club

## **October 2023**

General Meeting  
Wednesday, October 11, 2023  
11:30 AM at Midland Country Club

## **November 2023**

General Meeting  
Wednesday, November 8, 2023  
11:30 AM at Midland Country Club

## **December 2023**

Membership Brunch  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the  
Museum of the Southwest

# *TFRW Meeting Dates for 2023*

Apr 14-15  
July 14-15  
Sep 28-30  
Oct 12-14

2nd Qtr Board Meeting - Sheraton Georgetown  
3rd Qtr Board Meeting - Courtyard, Pflugerville  
NFRW Convention - Oklahoma City, OK  
TFRW Convention – Irving, TX



# MCRW 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please note there will be a service charge added to credit card payments.*

## Membership Preference:

**PRIMARY:** Regular \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

(female)

Patron \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

**\*ASSOCIATE:** Regular \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

(male or female)

Patron \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

*\*An Associate Female has a Primary membership with another club.*

## All information below must be completed in full.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact:  Email  Cell Phone  Alternate Phone

**Make checks payable to MCRW PAC.**

**No corporate checks permitted.**

**Mail to:**

**P O Box 4024**

**Midland, Texas 79704**

*Upon payment of your dues, your membership will be active until December 31, 2023.*

*MCRW will communicate with members by email and/or text messages.*

# Midland County Republican Women 2023 Executive Board



## ELECTED OFFICERS

President

1st VP Programs

2nd VP Membership

Secretary

Treasurer

Parliamentarian

Chaplain

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Armed Services

Awards

Bylaws

Campaign Activities

Caring for America

Community Awareness

Counting/Hospitality

CRC Rep. WTx

Judy Canon

Dianne Anderson

Kathy Young

Mary Helen Bowers

Angela Becker

Teresa Clingman DeShaw

Carla Smith

Denise Porter

Rachel Walker

Leah Robertson

Karen Hood

Becky Billingsley

Leann Brenner

Pat Blackwell

Rhonda Lacy

Education

Emails

Hospitality

Legislation

Membership Brunch

Midland Cty Repub. Party

Patrons

Public Relations

Reservations

Scholarship

Social Media

TFRW Deputy President

Ways & Means

Website

Elizabeth Leonard

LuAnn Morgan

Catie Matthews &

Amy Stretcher Burkes

Micah Dunn

Cecilie Pfluger

Sherri Merket & Sue Brannon

Cathie Broten

Erika June

Cindy Wallum

Elizabeth Moore & Gayla Mabee

Crystal Dimino

Juandelle Lacy Roberts

Peggy Kuss

Melanie Ragland

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