



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ashleigh Amonett

President, ECRW

Ashleigh.amonett3@gmail.com

Ector County Republican Women — Spring 2026

Dear Fellow Republican Women,

What an exciting and consequential time to be engaged in our community and in the Republican Party! From Ector County to Austin to Washington, there is no shortage of important developments to discuss — and no better place to do so than right here in our organization.

Nationally

President Trump's Big, Beautiful Bill is delivering real results for taxpayers this filing season — including new deductions on tips, overtime income, auto loan interest, and an enhanced senior deduction. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has signaled optimism about energy prices returning to the \$3/gallon range by late summer. Republicans continue to work alongside the administration on its agenda, including efforts to reauthorize the FISA foreign surveillance program critical to protecting our troops and homeland. There is much to watch as we head toward the 2026 midterms.

In Texas

The 89th Texas Legislature wrapped a historic regular session in June 2025, delivering conservative wins including major property tax relief, \$6 billion in border security funding, a new Dementia Prevention & Research Institute backed by \$3 billion over ten years, and landmark water infrastructure investment of \$1 billion per year for twenty years. Special sessions followed with congressional redistricting — recently upheld by the Supreme Court — plus wins on education, bail reform, and more.

Keep an eye on the 2026 Senate race: both Senator John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton advanced from the Republican primary and head to a runoff. It is shaping up to be one of the most-watched races in the country.

Locally

Closer to home, we have had one of our strongest starts ever here at Ector County Republican Women. Our four meetings this year have been nothing short of outstanding:

- January — Libby Stephens, CEO of the West Texas Food Bank, shed light on food insecurity right here in our region.
- February — Our first-ever evening meeting: a candidate meet and greet connecting members face-to-face with those seeking to represent us.
- March — Mayor Cal Hendricks delivered a compelling State of the City Address.
- April — Tim Olgivy & Peggy Dean of the Ector County Library Foundation and Kelby Davis of Permian Basin Habitat for Humanity highlighted the incredible organizations serving our community.
- May- Kirk Edwards, President, Latigo Petroleum, LLC, gave an insightful discussion on the State of Energy in the Permian Basin, offering his expert perspective on market trends, operational efficiencies, and what we can expect for the future of the industry.

As always, we do not meet in June or July — enjoy your summer! We will return strong with two evening meetings scheduled for the third Thursday of both August and September. Mark your calendars now.

It is a privilege to serve alongside each of you. Stay engaged, stay informed, and stay proud to be a Republican woman in West Texas.

Warmly,

Ashleigh Amonett

President, Ector County Republican Women



2026 LEADERSHIP

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Ashleigh Amonett
ashleigh.amonett3@gmail.com
VP Programs: Laurie Johnson
ljohnsonconsulting@gmail.com
VP Membership: Jessica Montes
Jessicamontes04@aol.com
Secretary: Betsy Rhodes
betsyntommyrh@gmail.com
Treasurer: Tammy Hawkins
Hawkinstammy76@gmail.com
Past President: Debi Hays
Debihays30@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Legislation: Debi Hays
Debihays30@gmail.com
Campaign Activities: Heather Grimes
Heathergrimes01@yahoo.com
Parliamentarian: Jill Miller
jtmiller@odessahousing.com
VIP Liaison: Traci Gregston
tracigregston@gmail.com
Media: Paula Williams
Passionqueen10@hotmail.com
Corresponding Secretary: Diann McKee
droseemckee@att.net

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards: Brenda Norman • Badges: Cindy Pierce • Hospitality: Melanie Lively • Scholarship: Tammy Hawkins • Newsletter: Victoria Garren • Website: Victoria Garren / Donna Kelm
TFRW District Director: Judy Calloway • TFRW Deputy President Reg 9: Debi Hays

VP MEMBERSHIP: JESSICA MONTES



Jessica Montes
VP Membership
Jessicamontes04@aol.com

A Heart for Service and Community

Born and raised in Odessa, Jessica Montes is a familiar face to many in Ector County. As VP of Membership for the Ector County Republican Women, she brings more than 25 years of business leadership experience and a genuine passion for community involvement and grassroots engagement.

Faith, Family, and Service

Jessica's leadership is rooted in faith and family. She serves as a Children's Leader with Seek First Odessa, equipping elementary students with character and Bible-based foundations through after-school programs. Her faith deepened through six years with Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), and she is a proud member of Crossroads Church.

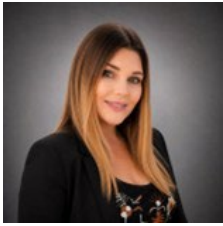
Community Involvement & Grassroots Experience

Jessica has spent years supporting local youth and schools — serving as a team mom for her daughter's club volleyball team and volunteering with local sports organizations. She has also volunteered on the front lines of local political campaigns: knocking on doors, holding signs, and engaging voters, because she believes strong communities are built through personal connection.

Growing a Stronger Chapter

As VP of Membership, Jessica is focused on growing and strengthening ECRW by welcoming new members, building relationships, and ensuring every member feels valued and empowered. Her goal is to help ECRW remain one of the strongest and most active Republican women's organizations in Texas.

Jessica has been married to her husband, Geno, for 27 years. Together they are proud parents of three children, and Lovey and Pop to four grandchildren.



Victoria Garren
Newsletter Editor

Tori.jackson4@icloud.com

Hi y'all!

I'm Victoria Garren — a West Texas wife, mama of four, and your new Republican Women's newsletter gal!

My husband and I are raising our four kids the way we were raised — with hard work, strong values, and a whole lot of love for this community. Faith and family are everything to us, and that's exactly why I'm so excited to be part of this organization.

I can't wait to connect with and shine a spotlight on the incredible women who make this group what it is. This newsletter is going to be a place where our voices are heard and our stories are told — and I am so honored to be the one telling them.

With love from West Texas,

Victoria ♥

A MESSAGE FROM VP OF MEMBERSHIP



Jessica Montes
VP Membership

Jessicamontes04@gmail.com

As we move further into 2026, the strength of our message is reflected in our growth. We are thrilled to report that our club now has 186 members strong! This isn't just a statistic; it's a diverse coalition of local leaders, families, and concerned citizens dedicated to the future of Ector County. Our membership reflects a wide range of commitment and support, and we want to take a moment to recognize the breakdown of our organization:

VIP Members	8
Patron Members	116
Regular Members	57
Dual Members	5
TOTAL	186

Whether you are a long-standing VIP or a Regular member just getting started, your presence at our luncheons and forums is what gives our club its influence. Our 116 Patron-level members provide the vital foundation that allows us to host community outreach and exclusive events, while our Regular members keep our boots-on-the-ground efforts moving forward.

Community Outreach — Día de los Niños



ECRW was asked to be a part of “Día de los Niños” on May 2nd at Floyd Gwinn Park! Our mission extends beyond the ballot box; it lives in the heart of our community. We were so honored to be invited to participate in such a special outreach event.

This traditional celebration of children is the perfect opportunity for our club to connect with local families and invest in the next generation of Odessa. We believe that strong families are the bedrock of a strong Republic, and what better way to show our support than a day dedicated to the joy and future of our kids?

As we approach our goal of 200 members, I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication. From the success of our March Patron Event at Swing Social to our past meetings featuring local leaders and candidates, your engagement is what makes us the premier political organization in the region.

If you have a neighbor or friend who is not yet part of our club, invite them on a path to further support our 2026 initiatives.

Together, we are making a difference.

MAY 21ST LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Don't miss this one — mark your calendar now!



D. Kirk Edwards
*President & CEO
Latigo Petroleum*

How the War in Iran is Affecting the Permian Basin

How is the War in Iran affecting the Permian Basin, the cost of gasoline, and local businesses? D. Kirk Edwards shares his expert insight into how global conflict is impacting West Texas — a topic that hits close to home for every family and business owner in our region.

Edwards is President and CEO of **Latigo Petroleum, LLC**, with assets across Texas and Oklahoma. He brings more than four decades of experience spanning operations, capital allocation, and executive leadership in the energy industry.

Previously, Kirk served as Executive VP of Key Energy Services and founded Odessa Exploration, Inc., which he built and sold in 1993. He began his career as a petroleum engineer with Texaco, with hands-on experience across reservoir, drilling, and field operations in West Texas and New Mexico.

Leadership & Civic Credentials

Kirk has served as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas El Paso Branch Board and as a member of the University of Texas System — University Lands Board. He currently serves on Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick’s Energy Advisory Committee and is a past Chairman of both the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and the Odessa Chamber of Commerce.

He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. One of the most sought-after voices on fossil fuels and the oil & gas industry, we are honored to welcome Mr. Edwards as our May guest speaker.

★ May 21, 2026 • MCM Elegante • 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM • VIPs & Patrons meet speaker at 11:00 AM ★



THE FOUNDING FATHERS BLOW IT

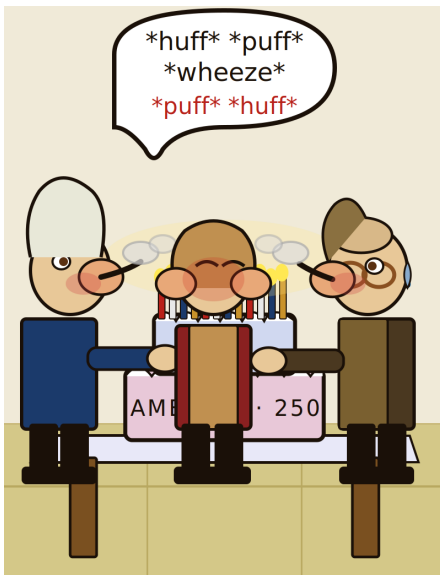
Summer 2026 ★ America's 250th



Washington arrives with the cake, beaming with patriotic pride.



Franklin reads the candle count on the card. His bifocals slide right off his nose.



All three blow with everything they've got. Cheeks red. Wigs askew. Not one candle goes out.



"We wrote the Declaration. We crossed the Delaware. Nobody warned us about the candles." — Jefferson, 1776½

★ God Bless America — all 250 years of her ★



STRUCTURE OF FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

By Judy Maikell Calloway



National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW)

All 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that have Republican Women clubs are under the umbrella of NFRW as the parent organization. Founded in 1938, NFRW consists of elected officers and a board of women representing the entire United States, with over 57,000 female members divided into 8 regions.

Texas is in Region 4, led by Martha Jenkins — the incoming NFRW President for 2026–2027. Region 4 consists of 5 states: Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, with a total of 246 clubs and 13,565 members — more members than any other region.

Texas leads Region 4 in both clubs and members.

Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW)

Each state operates under the guidance of NFRW, with TFRW in Austin overseeing Texas clubs. TFRW was established in 1955; ECRW became a club in 1960. Each of Texas's 31 senate districts has a District Director who supervises its clubs. Texas currently has 159 clubs with 9,680 members. TFRW oversees Texas clubs and addresses by-law violations.

Ector County Republican Women (ECRW)

Founded in 1960, ECRW is a third-tier club within the TFRW and NFRW structure. The President, VP of Membership, VP of Programs, Treasurer, and Secretary are the primary elected officers. The Board consists of members responsible for operations such as Legislative Action, Campaign Activities, Bylaws, and other support roles.

Our goal is to motivate, educate, and support women wanting to serve in our community as elected officials. We uphold Christian values and support the Republican Platform. When you become a member of ECRW, you are also a member of TFRW at the state level and NFRW at the national level.

NFRW (National)	TFRW (State)	ECRW (Local)
\$20.00	\$5.30	\$14.70*
Total Annual Dues: \$40.00 • *Badges cost \$10; \$4.70 remaining after badge		

TFRW DISTRICT DIRECTOR — SENATE DISTRICT 31

By Judy M. Calloway, District Director SD 31



Ector County Republican Women are privileged to have two TFRW Board members active in our local club. Debi Hays serves as Regional Deputy President for Region IX, covering Midland and Odessa. Judy Calloway is the District Director for Senate District 31 — the largest senate district in Texas by number of counties and area. SD 31 has only 4 TFRW clubs: two in the Panhandle (Amarillo and Borger) and one each in Odessa and Midland. By comparison, districts like Harris County have multiple clubs within a single city.

District Directors assist clubs with by-laws, awards, voter registration, block walking, conflict management, new club organization, membership, and a full range of training tools.

Candidate Development School

One of the best training opportunities available is the Candidate Development School — an 8-week course for members interested in running for elected office. The program runs weekly 2-hour Zoom sessions aimed at empowering women at all levels of government. With only 16 participants per class, the June 18 – August 13 session is filling quickly. Contact Debi or Judy if you're interested in the next class.



If you ever have the chance, attend a TFRW board meeting and see what a room full of strong Republican Women can accomplish. The next board meeting is July 9–10.

The Seven Golden Cities

Odessa holds the distinction of being one of the Seven Golden Cities in Texas — the most Republican cities in the state, along with Midland, Amarillo, San Angelo, Abilene, Wichita Falls, and Lubbock. We are in danger of losing that title if Republicans stay home and don't vote. Currently Texas has more registered Democrats than Republicans. Getting out the vote must be our battle cry — in the May runoff and again in November.

Republican Women Keeping Texas Red.

★ 250 Years of Freedom: America's Greatest Story Is Still Being Written ★

By Victoria Garren, Newsletter Editor — Ector County Republican Women

There are moments in history that only come around once. July 4, 2026, is one of them.

This summer, the United States of America turns 250 years old. Two and a half centuries. The Semi quincennial. Call it what you want — here in West Texas, we're just going to call it what it is: the biggest birthday celebration this country has ever seen, and one we should all be proud to witness.

As Republican Women, we don't just celebrate America because it's tradition. We celebrate it because we understand what it costs.

It Started with an Idea

On a sweltering Philadelphia summer in 1776, a group of men did something that had never been done before. They didn't just declare independence from a king — they declared that the right to be free doesn't come from a government, a monarch, or a piece of paper. It comes from God.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.”

That sentence changed the world.

What followed wasn't easy. The Revolutionary War was brutal. The early republic was fragile. The founders argued, compromised, and sometimes failed each other. But the idea held. The Constitution was ratified. The republic took root. And from those thirteen scrappy colonies came the most free, most prosperous, most generous nation in the history of civilization.

That's not patriotic exaggeration. That's just the truth.

250 Years of Standing Up

America's story isn't one of perfection — it's one of resilience. We fought a Civil War to hold the union together and abolish slavery. We sent our sons overseas twice in a generation to stop tyranny from swallowing the world. We put a man on the moon. We rebuilt nations we defeated. We opened our doors to millions of people who had nowhere else to turn.

Every single time this country has been tested, Americans have risen to meet the moment. That's not an accident. That's character — shaped by faith, forged by hardship, and passed down from one generation to the next.

We are the daughters and granddaughters of that legacy. And we have a responsibility to make sure it doesn't stop with us.

What We Owe the Next Generation

Here's the thing about freedom — it doesn't maintain itself. It has to be tended to, protected, and taught. Every generation has to decide, all over again, whether they're willing to fight for it.



The founders understood this. Benjamin Franklin reportedly said, after the Constitutional Convention, that they had given us “a republic, if you can keep it.” That charge still stands. And it falls to us — right here in Ector County, right now in 2026 — to answer it.

That’s why the work of Ector County Republican Women matters. It’s not just about politics. It’s about making sure the values that built this nation — faith, family, limited government, individual liberty, and love of country — survive another 250 years. When we show up to meetings, knock on doors, support conservative candidates, and engage our communities, we are doing our part to keep the republic.

And that is a genuinely patriotic act.

Celebrate Like You Mean It

This July 4th, we encourage every member to celebrate with intention. Fly your flag. Go to a fireworks show. Read the Declaration of Independence out loud with your family — it only takes ten minutes, and it will give you chills every time. Tell your kids and grandkids what this country is, what it stands for, and why it’s worth protecting.

Because 250 years from now, someone will be celebrating America’s 500th birthday. What they’re celebrating — and whether freedom still rings — depends a whole lot on what we do today.

Happy birthday, America. Y’all have earned it.

★ 1776 — 2026 ★ One Nation, Under God, Indivisible ★





★ **KIDS CORNER** ★ **HAPPY 250TH, AMERICA!**

★ **Did You Know?**

- ★ America turns 250 years old on July 4, 2026!
- ★ The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.
- ★ There are 50 stars on the flag — one for each state.
- ★ The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France in 1886.
- ★ The Bald Eagle is America's national bird.

★ **America Trivia for Kids!**

See how many you know — answers are at the bottom!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What country did America declare independence from? 2. How many stripes are on the American flag? 3. What is the capital of the United States? 4. Who was the first President of the United States? 5. What do we celebrate on July 4th? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What ocean is on the east coast of America? 7. How many states are in the United States? 8. What song is called America's national anthem? 9. What bird is the symbol of the United States? 10. In what city is the Statue of Liberty located? |
|---|---|

Answers: 1. Great Britain 2. 13 3. Washington D.C. 4. George Washington 5. Independence Day / America's Birthday 6. Atlantic Ocean 7. 50 8. The Star-Spangled Banner 9. The Bald Eagle 10. New York City

us Patriotic Word Search — America's 250th!

Find all 15 patriotic words hidden in the grid — Across, Down, Diagonal, and Backwards!

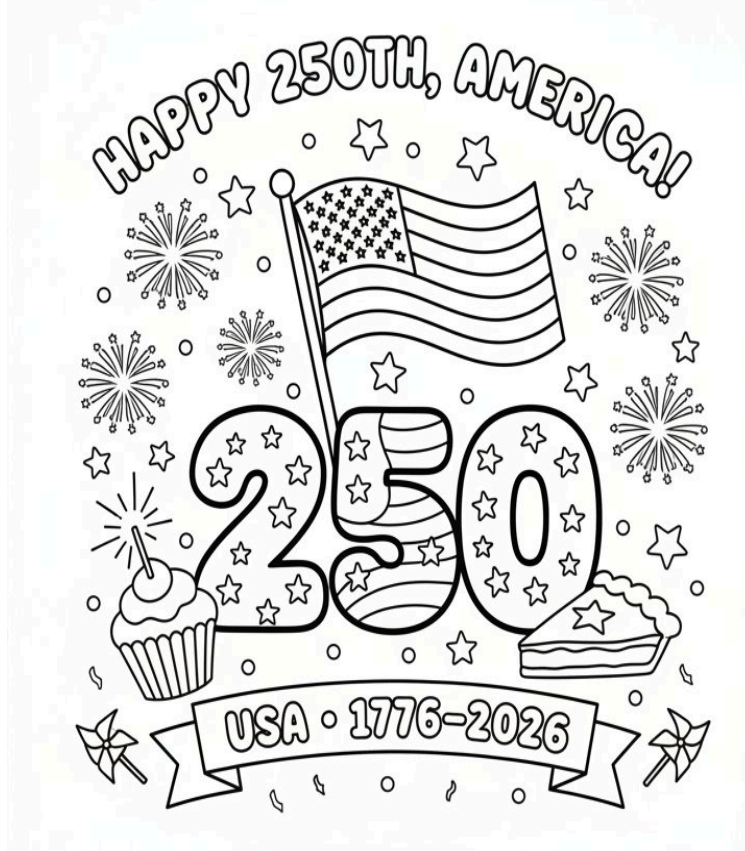
L	L	E	A	G	L	E	S	S	K	P	I	D	T	V
P	A	T	R	I	O	T	V	Y	R	N	H	G	Y	J
E	A	F	R	L	W	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	P
Z	K	W	L	M	Y	H	L	T	T	W	M	L	F	Q
C	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	I	U	S	C	F	X	H
C	R	M	B	H	S	E	P	I	R	T	S	X	Y	B
V	R	O	H	R	S	H	P	C	S	R	L	A	J	Y
H	O	D	E	N	A	Q	X	B	R	J	T	R	T	A
Z	N	E	V	O	V	J	G	N	A	V	X	I	K	Z
W	O	E	A	E	X	R	P	Z	T	A	N	S	N	Y
Q	H	R	R	K	G	P	M	Z	S	U	K	Z	J	D
A	P	F	B	R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	M	U	P
F	P	V	P	E	C	I	T	S	U	J	L	O	C	L
B	V	Y	T	R	E	B	I	L	P	K	R	C	M	Q
B	P	J	Z	E	M	X	J	Z	O	P	C	L	E	I

🔍 **Find These Words:**

- AMERICA
- BRAVE
- EAGLE
- FLAG
- FREEDOM
- HONOR
- JUSTICE
- LIBERTY
- NATION
- PATRIOT
- PROUD
- REPUBLIC
- STARS
- STRIPES
- UNITY



 **Color Me! — Happy 250th, America!**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 8 th	ECRW Board Meeting 6pm
June 11-13 th	Texas GOP 2026 in Houston, TX
June 26 th	Celebrate the USA 250 th Anniversary Patron Event
June–July	No luncheon meetings — watch for social event alerts!
July 6 th	ECRW Board Meeting 6pm
July 17 th	Patriot Camp 9am-2pm Location TBD
August 3 rd	ECRW Board Meeting 6pm
August 20 th	Monthly Meeting, MCM Elegante at 6pm, speaker to be announced.
September 7 th	ECRW Board Meeting 6pm



2026 Photo Gallery





**DIAMOND G
LAND SERVICES LLC**

Family-Owned ♦ West Texas Proud ♦ Built on Hard Work & Integrity

**Brush & Land Clearing ♦ Dozer & Excavation
Commercial Landscaping ♦ Xeriscaping
Licensed Commercial Irrigation Specialist |
LI0030838**

Ready to get started? Whether it's clearing acres, shaping the land, or creating a beautiful landscape scene, Diamond G Land Services is here to get the job done right. We are fully insured for your peace of mind. Call us today for a free estimate on your next project!

**Diamondgslc@gmail.com | www.diamondgls.com
940-634-9460**



On July 4, 2026, the Ector County Republican Party will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond. We invite everyone to join us at the City's downtown parade at 10am on July 4th!!

Donna Kelm, ECRP County Chair



ECTOR COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

P.O. Box 14537
Odessa, TX 79768
432-557-1382

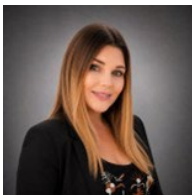
Contact: www.ecrwtexas@gmail.com

Website: www.ecrwodessa.com

If you are interested in submitting information to be placed in our ECRW newsletter, please email to: ecrwtexas@gmail.com. ECRW allows all Republican Candidates to place articles as well. *ECRW Club does not support one Republican over another.* Information contained in our Newsletter is for informational purposes only. The ECRW Club Newsletter is an official publication and is emailed to its members. It contains information about the club, its members, and important announcements and information regarding the political arena. If you would like to advertise, please contact us at the email listed above. Ector County Republican Women is a tax-exempt organization under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to ECRW PAC are not tax-deductible as charitable for Federal Income Tax purposes. Corporate contributions are not permitted.

ECRW Newsletters Available Online. Would you like to read a past edition of the ECRW Newsletter? If you missed out on an issue or are a new member and would like to read about what we've done in the past, all of the newsletters from 2021-present are available for you to download on our website! www.ecrwodessa.com

The ECRW newsletter is an official publication of the Ector County Republican Women and is emailed quarterly to its members. It contains information about ECRW, its member clubs, and important announcements and information regarding the political arena. Political advertising is paid for by the Ector County Republican Women PAC, a tax-exempt organization under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to ECRW PAC are not tax-deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes. Corporate contributions are not permitted.



Victoria Garren

Newsletter Editor

Tori.jackson4@icloud.com