

ECRW NEWSLETTER



Prez Release

by Donna Kelm

2023 Elected Officers

President	Donna Kelm
VP Programs:	Debi Hays
VP Membership:	Jill Miller
Secretary	Ashleigh Amonett
Treasurer.	Heather Grimes
Past President	Rachel Minor

Board Members

Legislation	Judy Calloway
Campaign Activities	Sandy Morris
Parliamentarian	Lori Crutcher
Chaplin.	Shaye Lane
VIP Liaison	Traci Gregston
Caring for America	Theresa Edgmon
Corresponding Secretary	Diann McKee

Standing Committee Chairs

Awards.	Georgia Kirby
Badges.	Tonny Welling
Decorating.	Pam Kimbrell
Hospitality.	Becky Heald
Scholarship.	Dottie Chavez
Public Relations –	To be filled
Special Events.	To be filled
Public Relations.	To be filled

Table of Contents

Membership Party	2
TFRW Legislation	3
Brooks Landgraf	4
Pfluger Recap	6
Website/Secretary	9
January Luncheon.	10
Chamber of Commerce.	11
Heritage	12
Texas 88 th	13
Christmas Party	14
Recipe	16
Calendar	17

We welcome 2023 with unknown certainty in our government. As our House of Representatives try to vote in a Speaker of the House, the rest of Washington is waiting to see what will come from our November election.

Just as in government, your new ECRW leaders are set for 2023. Our goal is to support all *Republicans!* We wish to make the public knowledgeable of their surroundings and their surrounding leaders. If you as a person, taxpayer, voter, are educated by our club or other entities, it will help you get involved or make decisions on our local, state and national government.

We must stand up for our values. If we stand by and let the dictators run our government, then we only have ourselves to blame. Help us, ECRW to get more awareness of our club.

I pray for the people who carry the banner of leadership within our organization. May they seek Christ in all times and ways. May they fearlessly lead us in faith. I ask you to pray for our leaders locally, state-wide and for our nation. Yes, even democrats, as they are people. There is good and bad in all variations of government, and we need to pray for them as well. In the end we are all God's people. Pray that all will listen to God's word and do what is right for the good of His people.

If you would like to get involved with ECRW in any aspect, please contact me or one of the board members listed to the left. This is your club, and we want to know how we can better serve you. We would love to hear your ideas!

Our membership drive, *Perks & Promises* is January 26th. Bring a friend or friends. The more the merrier! It will be a great evening of fellowship.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as ECRW President. I have some big shoes to fill following Rachel!

I wish each of you a Happy, Prosperous New Year!



PLEASE JOIN ECRW FOR
PERKS &
Promises

JANUARY 26, 2023

6:30 - 9:00 PM

KARLA MILSON'S
6900 SLEEPY HOLLOW
ODESSA, TX 79765

Music by Brian Milson ★ Finger Foods & Drinks
Award for Most Memberships Signed

RSVP ONLINE • ECRWODESSA.COM



MEMBERSHIP DUES

GENERAL - \$35 PATRON - \$100 VIP - \$500 JR (18-25) - \$30 JR PATRON - \$50





TEXAS FEDERATION of *Republican Women*

Legislative Day 2023

HOTEL GROUP RATE ENDS JANUARY 10TH!

Building Advocates for Texas



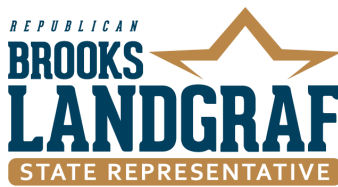
Legislative Day 2023

Friday, February 3rd
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**REGISTER
NOW!**

[AT&T Executive Education and
Conference Center](#)

TFRW's Legislative Day will be held in Austin on Friday, February 3rd, with events at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. Our TFRW Capitol Outing will be on Thursday, February 2nd. Don't wait, buy your tickets today! We expect this event to sell out and there will be no on-site registration. Discounted ticket pricing of \$85 ends on Friday, January 13th. Regular registration is \$110 until Friday, January 20th, when ticket prices will go up to \$135. Ticket sales end Friday, January 27th.



Beating Back the Bullies

January 8, 2023

by State Representative Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa)

As your state representative, I take seriously my role to serve as a voice for West Texans. That is why I'm proud to report that the EPA is backing off – we stood up to the bully, and the bully backed down!

The EPA has halted its fight against the Permian Basin and Texas energy.

You've heard me talk a lot about our fight against the federal Environmental Protection Agency over the past six months.

You'll recall that last year in June, the EPA announced a plan to redesignate the Permian Basin as a "non-attainment" area, which could cut oil and natural gas production and kill thousands of jobs in West Texas. Immediately, Governor Greg Abbott, Congressman August Pfluger and I teamed up to question the EPA on its data (which didn't even come from Texas) and other details about its plan.

In September, I rallied in Odessa with Permian Basin oil and gas workers and Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan to call out the EPA on their secretive plan based on flawed data.

In October, I convened a meeting of the Texas House Environmental Regulation Committee at the Ector Theater to discuss the EPA's half-baked plan, invited the EPA Administrator to explain himself and heard testimony from Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar that explained the devastating impact the EPA's threatened policy could have on Texas families and our economy.

Earlier this week, the EPA announced that it is abandoning its plan to pick on the Permian Basin!

I'm grateful for everyone who was involved in this fight and am thankful we have leaders in this state who are willing to step up and fight when a bully shows up. This is a win for the Permian Basin, United States, and everyone who needs energy and loves freedom!

However, fighting the EPA wasn't all I was up to in 2022 — I've spent the last year working on legislation and holding committee hearings to prepare for the 2023 legislative session. As I sit here today, I can confidently tell you the Permian Basin has never been in a better position headed into a legislative session, and I aim to take full advantage of the opportunities that are before us.

As announced by Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar last year, the Texas Legislature will start the legislative session in 2023 with an estimated \$27 billion budget surplus. This will be the largest budget surplus the Texas Legislature has ever had, and it is in part the result of the state's oil and natural gas production taxes.

As the legislature convenes for the 88th Texas Legislative Session on January 10, 2023, I expect property tax relief, public safety along the border and in our public schools, mental healthcare, and additional investments in road, water and broadband infrastructure will be discussed at great length with all of this additional revenue, again, much of it thanks to oil and gas production in the Permian Basin.

Therefore, I'll be fighting alongside my fellow West Texas state legislators to make sure West Texas is prioritized in the way it deserves and we get our fair share. We'll be working to increase funding for public education, so that we can attract and retain the best teachers and keep our schools safe. And even though we've seen steady and



State Representative Brooks Landgraf took the oath to serve Ector, Loving, Ward and Winkler counties in Texas House of Representatives. Congratulations!



*Texas Senator Kevin Sparks
sworn into office.
Congratulations!*





Thank you for Allowing me to Serve

Now that I have been officially sworn into the 118th Congress, Camille and I want to say thank you for allowing us to serve.

Representing the 11th District of Texas in Congress is the honor of a lifetime. This District is the epicenter of National Security — with the most prolific oil & gas producing region in the world, a thriving agriculture industry, and incredible support for our military heroes.

I look forward to championing policies in the new Republican majority to stop out-of-control inflation, regain American energy dominance, secure the border, and strengthen our military.

I have already introduced two pieces of legislation in the 118th Congress: a bill to block illegal migrants from voting in Washington, D.C., and a measure to force the Biden Administration to publish the number of Known and Suspected Terrorists (KSTs) crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Let's get to work!



I'd like to hear your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Please feel free to reach out anytime.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "August Pfluger".



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

January 7, 2023

Dear Texas-11,

I write to provide an update on the election for Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The election concluded early Saturday morning as Kevin McCarthy was elected Speaker of the 118th Congress.

Americans elected a Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives because they want to see results. The Speaker of the House is an important position charged with leading the 118th Congress as we work to right the wrongs of the last several years of one-party Democrat rule in Washington.

I supported Kevin McCarthy because of his positions on energy and border security. He has made multiple trips to the Permian Basin, and I am confident that his background and experiences have uniquely positioned him to fight for our industry and way of life. He understands the challenges and threats facing our industry and will fight the Democrats for American Energy Dominance. When it comes to the border, he exposed the scandal of known and suspected terrorists crossing our southern border and has called for Secretary Mayorkas to step down or be impeached.

I am pleased that the reforms that many of us in the Conference have called for have been made—like guaranteeing a check on our spiraling national debt and ensuring every District in the U.S. has a stronger voice in the legislative process.

We will immediately set to work drafting legislation, holding hearings, demanding accountability, and ensuring the safety of the homeland. I will continue to fight for the good, hardworking men and women in Texas-11 to restore U.S. energy dominance, protect Americans from the threat of China, and secure our border.

Let's get to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "August Pfluger".

August Pfluger
Member of Congress

Secretary
Ashleigh Amonett



Hello everyone!! I am Ashleigh Amonett and so excited to serve ECRW in the role of Secretary for this year. I have been a member of ECRW for the past three years and I truly believe in this organization. I feel that as Republican Women we should strive to make our voices heard, and we should help to educate others on issues that our state and country are facing. I look forward to seeing each of your smiling faces each month and getting to know each one of you.

On a personal note, I am the Assistant Executive Director for Odessa Housing Finance Corporation (OHFC). We develop housing for low to moderate-income families in Odessa. I have been married to my husband Kevin for 16 years and we have been blessed with three Amazing children: Ariana, Danny, and Zadrian. My husband and I fostered for over 6 years and had the pleasure of having 16 children come into our home and lives during that time and adopted our three children. My children are very active in sports. When we are not chasing them for sports, we enjoy traveling, camping, boating, and being outdoors.



Check out ECRW website. Over the last year we have revamped the site. Hopefully making it easier to find information. If you have any question or have any ideas of how to better the site please forward to Donna Kelm at ecrwtxas@gmail.com

<https://www.ecrwodessa.com/>

*January 18th
Odessa Country Club
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
\$30 in advance; \$35 at the door
Ecrwodessa.com*

January Speakers will feature two topics that are important to quality of life, community growth and economic diversification. *Randy Ham*, Executive Director for Arts & Humanities along with Ector County Library Committee members, *Peggy Dean*, *Sondra Eoff*, *Tim Ogilvy*, and *Craig Stoker* will give a presentation of the new and exciting Library coming to our downtown area.

Hang on and strap yourselves to your seats as you learn, participate, and cheer for what the future library will offer. Ector County Library Director, *Mark Howard* will give an update on the spectacular new services the current library offers.

John Herriage from Downtown Odessa will dazzle you with all the exciting events coming to your downtown in 2023. Eat, play, shop and stay is all available within walking distance from any corner. John will explain how a click away you can keep up to date on all things happening in downtown. There's always something to do or see in Odessa for all ages.



*Odessa and Midland Chambers Emerge on State Capitol**by: Renee Earls, President*

The 82nd State Legislative Session is now in session and you are invited to join the Odessa-Midland Chambers of Commerce as we host our Bi-Annual Legislative Days at the Capitol. More than 130 community members will join forces in promoting the importance of the Basin's economy to elected State Leaders in the 3-day event starting February 6th. We will hear from our own Rep. Brooks Landgraf, Rep. Tom Craddick and newly elected State Senator Kevin Sparks as they host their constituents in Austin.

The event kicks off with a reception at the Driskill Hotel, where Legislators will be our guests for an evening of networking. February 7th will begin with a breakfast featuring Texas Association of Business CEO Glenn Hamer, who will speak on the organization's top legislative issues going into the session. The Odessa-Midland contingency will then head to the Capitol where they will hear speakers on various topics including education, transportation, water, broadband, economic development and workforce, among other issues. A roundtable with special guests Rep. Landgraf, Rep. Craddick and Senator Sparks will highlight the first 30 days in session as well as important topics facing the House and Senate in the days ahead. The group will be introduced in the two Chambers and also hear from other elected officials such as Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick, who will speak on the importance of the Basin's oil and gas industry, which is the most valuable economic driver not only in the region, but the state and nation. This is one of the many reasons our Chambers host this bi-annual event, as it allows community members to go to Austin has a group to show off the importance that Odessa and Midland bring to the table, reminding State Legislators the value of economies on the Lone Star State, the United States and our world.

It's not too late to sign up to attend and be one of the Odessans who help us show off our incredible community. If you are interested in attending, you can go to the Odessa Chamber's website at <https://odessachamber.com/legislativedays/> for more information. We want a large group of proud Odessans to help us wave our flag and help promote the importance of the economy and contributions of West Texas. While we don't have the high populations of other parts of the state, we most certainly have the natural resources below the ground that all Texans and Americans depend on!

We hope you will join us for the Legislative Days at the Capitol. Not only will we promote our community, but it will also be a fun and informative trip to be a part of as we join together as Odessans, Midlanders and proud Texans.

The two Chambers have been joining together for this bi-annual Legislative visit for more than three decades. The Odessa Chamber is comprised of more than 750 local members representing more than 28,000 employees in the Odessa and Ector Country area. While this program is organized by our Operations department, the Chamber also focuses on tourism through our Discover Odessa department and on business recruitment and retention through our Economic Development Department. We welcome any opportunity to visit about how our organization can help your business be part of the ongoing efforts to help Odessa grow and prosper. The Odessa Chamber of Commerce – we are the Voice of Business! Reach out to us at 432-332-9111 for more information or visit us on the second floor of the Bank of America building in downtown Odessa.

★ ODESSA - MIDLAND ★

**LEGISLATIVE
DAYS★2023**

FEBRUARY 6-8, 2023

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL | AUSTIN, TX



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

INSPIRING

Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low. . . .

ISAIAH 40:4

“I HAVE A DREAM”

Martin Luther King Jr. was a driving force in the push to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means in the turbulent 1950s and the 1960s. His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, which is credited with mobilizing supporters of desegregation and prompting the 1964 Civil Rights Act. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he delivered these unforgettable words:

Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. . . . Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God’s children. . . .

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.”

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. . . .

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. . . .

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. . . .

From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Contact US!

We welcome your feedback and want to hear from you.

ECRW

P.O. Box 14537

Odessa, TX 79768

Email: EcrwTexas@gmail.com

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we lose our freedoms it will be because we have destroyed ourselves from within.”
Abraham Lincoln

Texas 88th Legislative Session*by: Judy Calloway*

January 10th is the day that the 88th regular Legislature session officially begins at noon. Inauguration of the governor, and the Lieutenant Governor takes place on January 17th. With all the election expense and time, you might think the job would be more than 5 months out of every two years! The last day of the 88th Regular Session is May 20, 2023. Unless a special session is called.

There is lots of work to be done in this short period of time. This is a shortened version of what is on the agenda for this session.

Public Education

Guns

Abortion

LGBTQ Texas Rights

Energy

Health Care

Voting and Elections

Disaster declarations

Property Tax

Opioid Testing

When the 88th session convenes there will be over 800 bills already submitted pertaining to these and many other matters. Thousands of pieces are filed each session but most never make it into law. The state has an unexpected amount of funds at their disposal. State Comptroller, Glenn Hagar has forecast at least an extra 27 billion dollars in the two-year budget. This does not include the increase in the rainy-day fund. We are privileged to have 3 good men working for our area in this session: Tom Craddick, Brooks Landgraf, and new State Senator Kevin Sparks.

Hopefully we can keep everyone informed and knowledgeable concerning the 2023 Legislative Session



2022 Board

2022 Christmas Party

Our luncheon was held at MCM Elegante. A very good turnout to celebrate the year end and swearing in of 2023 Officers.

It wasn't as hospitable as Judge Sara Billingleys last year, as it will take a lot to top that party!!!! Thank you to everyone who came!!



Donna and Shirley West. Bill Nyborg won the grand prize.



Mike & Sandy Morris



2023 Elected officers sworn in by Judge Billingsley.

Donna, Jill, Judge Billingsley, Heather, Ashleigh and Debi.

Submitted by: Ashleigh Amonett

Recipe

CRANBERRY-JALAPENO CREAM CHEESE DIP

INGREDIENTS

- 12 ounces (340 g) fresh cranberries
- 4-5 green onions, *chopped*
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 jalapeno pepper, *seeded and finely diced*
- 1 cup (212 g) sugar, *more or less to taste*
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon or lime juice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 (8-ounces each) packages (454 g) cream cheese, light or regular, softened
- Crackers, *for serving*



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pulse the cranberries in a food processor or blender until coarsely chopped. Add the green onions, cilantro, jalapeno, sugar, cumin, lemon juice and salt and pulse until the ingredients are well combined and finely chopped. Transfer the mixture to a covered container and refrigerate for 4 hours (or up to overnight) so the flavors have time to meld and develop.
2. When ready to serve, spread the cream cheese in an even layer on a serving plate or 9-inch pie dish. Top with the cranberry-jalapeno mixture.
3. Refrigerate for up to an hour before serving. Serve with crackers.





Dawn Buckingham, Texas Land Commissioner

Former state Sen. Dawn Buckingham was sworn in as Texas next Land Commissioner on Monday, making history as the first woman in the role and promising to “serve Texans and serve them well.”
Fox News

