



The Conservative Voice

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Dear ARW members,

In less than a month the voters will go to the polls. They will decide whether or not to allow our country to continue on the downward, out of control, spiral we find ourselves in; or, they will choose to elect the Republican candidates who can put on the brakes and stop the current administration from “fundamentally” destroying our country. I pray the voters make the right choice and free all of us from the tyrannical strangle hold Harry Reid has on the United States Senate.

Locally, the citizens of Lafayette will have the opportunity to elect school board members who, not only actually live in the districts they are claiming to represent, but also for members who will listen to the desires of the parents as well as the teachers, and work to do away with Common Core. These members must also be willing to find a civil way to contain our “out of control” Superintendent. Before deciding on a candidate make sure you find out where he or she stands on Common Core and whether or not they are seeking a position on the school board at the request of the parents in their district or at the encouragement and financial backing of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

There are also several other important issues on the ballot that must be considered. You will be choosing the next Lafayette Parish District Attorney, City Marshall and several judges. I do hope all of you will choose wisely as the choices you make will not only affect you but the lives and well being of your children and grandchildren.

You will also be voting on 14 amendments to the Louisiana Constitution that have not been well documented or discussed by the local news media. Copies of the amendments have been made available to our members at the monthly meetings and are available online for your review. If any of our members would like a copy of these amendments to study and discuss prior to the election please let me or Patty Carter know as soon as possible.

While it seems the world is burning around us, it is imperative that we continue to elect and support the Republican candidates from our districts that are out there working to promote and protect the people of south Louisiana. Congressman Charles Boustany is running for re-election from our district, and we all know how hard he has worked for our veterans and to secure a VA Hospital for both Lafayette and Lake Charles.

Remember the thousands of young men and women who died to protect your right to vote on election day, November 4, 2014.

God bless,

Donna Pelletier

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

ARW was honored to have as our guest local first responders from Acadian Ambulance at the September meeting. Our guest speakers were Keith Stutes candidate for Lafayette Parish District Attorney and Brian Pope candidate for Lafayette City Marshall. Also attending the meeting were several candidates for both Family Court Judge and the School Board.

SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership— membership stands at 126 plus we now have 19 associate members. (Pat Soulier)

Book club — *“The Hurricane Sisters”* by Dorothea Benton Frank was discussed at the October meeting. The book chosen to read in November is *“King and Maxwell”* by David Baldacci. For those who like reading ahead, the book chosen for December is *“Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good”* Gail Dysart invites all members to join this group at Barnes & Nobles on the first Monday of each month at 10 AM.

Volunteers hours — MaryAnne Oller is requesting all members to report all your time spent promoting Republican activities, working at phone banks, walking door to door or attending various political functions.

Literacy Committee—Helen is requesting that members bring new or gently used books appropriate for kindergarten thru 4th grade to our October meeting. These books will be donated to one of the two schools our club is working with this school year. She reports that ARW has ordered 72 atlases for J.W. Faulk Elementary School, as well as 10 books from the MELP project list provided by the NFRW.

Treasurers report — Helen has the ARW bank records at each meeting for your review.

**YOU CAN HELP OTHERS
GET TO THE POLLS**



With early voting opportunities available in each parish, now is the time to ensure that your aging parents, relatives, and friends take part in voting! Find out where your parish “Early Voting” and “Advanced Voting” polls are located. Escort your aging loved ones to cast their ballots. Unlike Election Day, they will not feel threatened by waiting lines and there are ample poll workers on hand to make the voting opportunity a rewarding experience for them. Your loved ones will want to take part in this most critical election. Their lives have been dedicated to caring for us and preparing us to become “the caretakers”. Take this opportunity to enable them to continue to enjoy their voting privilege and to let their voices be heard!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October and November, 2014



City Council meetings are the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month

- Oct 6 Last day to register to vote
- Oct 8 ARW Executive Committee meeting 9:30 AM Southside library
- Oct 10 - 12th LFRW Fall Board Meeting, Covington, LA**
- Oct 19—Take Back America, featuring Jeanine Pirro, Brian Sack and Moon Griffon Heymann Performing Arts Center, 6—9 Tickets available from Ticket Master**
- Oct 21 ARW Monthly luncheon meeting River Oaks Catering 11—1PM, Guest speaker will be Congressman, Dr. Charles Boustany.

Oct 21 thru 28—Early Voting

Oct 30 Deadline to request a Mail Ballot

Oct 31 **Halloween** 

Nov 4 ELECTION DAY

Nov 12 ARW Executive Committee meeting 9:30 AM Southside Library

Nov 18 ARW monthly luncheon meeting 11—1 PM River Oaks Catering

Nov 27 **Thanksgiving Day** 

Dec 6 General Election Day



LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

LFRW Fall Board of Directors Meeting

October 10 –12, 2014
 Clarion Inn and Suites
 501 N. Hwy 190
 Covington, Louisiana

Many members of ARW are looking forward to this road trip! Look for their full report on all that goes on in the November newsletter.



THE LITERACY PROJECT

Committee Chairperson, Helen Granger, has reported that they will be distributing atlases to the 3rd graders at J.W. Faulk Elementary, as part of their project this year. She is requesting that members donate new or gently used children’s books appropriate for kindergarten thru 4th graders. These books will be given to the Principals, at Katherine Drexel Elementary School and J. W. Faulk Elementary School, for distribution to the students. If you would like to be a part of this committee and help in distributing these books to the schools, please contact Helen Granger.

The books should be brought to the October meeting!

NEAUX TO MARY LANDRIEU 2014

Neaux to Mary Landry 2014 is an open Facebook Group open to all and dedicated to the defeat of Mary Landrieu in November. Take a look around.

[tps://www.facebook.com/groups/neaustomarylandrieu2014/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/neaustomarylandrieu2014/)

If you are interested in getting involved and helping in the ARW effort to allow Mary Landrieu to remain living in her 2 million dollar home in Washington D.C., but as a private citizen and not as our Louisiana Senator, please consider joining this group of concerned members and help in their brainstorming efforts to come up with ways to spread the word that “her time is up”. We, the people of Louisiana, no longer want her to be our Senator. She is one of Obama’s strongest supporters, voting 97% of the time in favor of his wishes and his damaging plans for our country.

DONATIONS OF MEN’S TOILETIERS REQUESTED FOR VA HOSPITAL IN JENNINGS. LA.

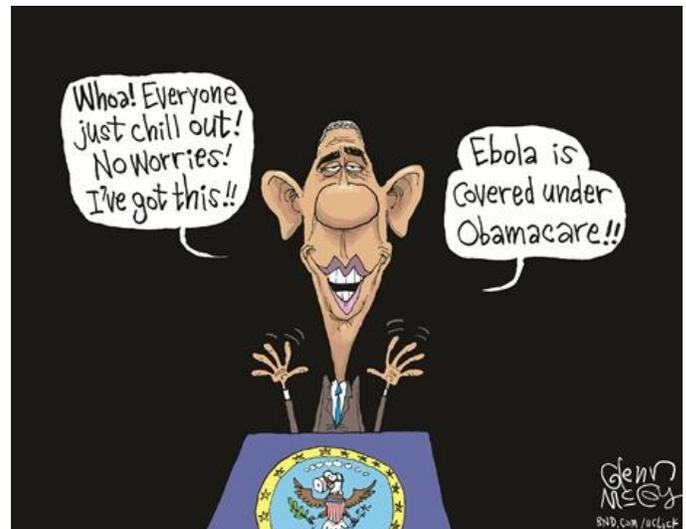
ARW members are being asked to bring men’s toiletry items to the October lunch meeting.



PRAYER REQUEST

- Margaret Vidrine’s husband Glynn is still in the hospital after nearly 3 months.
- Jane Blackwell is recuperating, from major foot surgery , at the home of her daughter in Houston.

If you know of other club members who are ill or in need of our prayers please let us know.



SEPTEMBER, 2014 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Patti Carter

LOCAL

State Representative Joel Robideaux announced Oct 1st that he will be running for city-parish president in 2015. Current incumbent, Joey Durel is barred from seeking re-election because his position is limited to three terms. Current city-parish Chief Administrative Officer, Dee Stanley, also plans to run for city-parish president.

Lafayette Parish School System teachers will receive a salary increase of \$1000.00 per year and a one-time check of \$1200.00, paid for from the \$7.6 million in excess funds, from a sales tax fund dedicated to teacher salaries. The school board voted for this increase Oct. 1st.

Others receiving the raise are school system employees whose salaries are paid using the "teacher salary" schedule. They are librarians, counselors, nurses, data analysts, instructional strategists and psychologists.

October 14th is set as the hearing date for Superintendent Pat Cooper, who will have a chance to defend himself against claims by the school board that he violated state law, violated board policies, and violated his own contract. This hearing will be open to the public and will take place at the school board office on Chapin Drive.

STATE

Entergy Louisiana LLC and Entergy Gulf States Louisiana LLC have asked the Louisiana Public Service Commission for permission to merge into a single utility. Both companies said this would cut costs for all of their customers. By 2019 the two companies expect an increase in infrastructure demand and would therefore have to make large scale additional investments.

The Louisiana Association of Educators (LAE) has filed a lawsuit in the 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge that would eliminate \$60 million in funding for dozens of public schools in the state. The lawsuit states that charter schools are insufficiently "public", and that school systems and teacher unions have "no" control over them. Basically the suit says that charter schools are "publicly" funded but "privately" run.

There is a new Louisiana law that went into effect in August which prohibits the use of cellphones in school zones during posted hours. When enforced, the penalty for the first offense is not more than \$175.00 but any subsequent violations carry a penalty of up to \$500.00.

FEDERAL

A survey of Louisiana voters found that 56% are opposed to a change in federal law that would allow state governments to cross state lines and collect sales taxes from online retailers.

The Supreme Court on Thursday Oct 2nd agreed to hear two high-stakes discrimination cases that examine religious accommodations for job applicants, and another case about federal fair housing law. These were new appeals the justices added to their 2014-2015 docket which begins October 6, 2014. Five states have asked the court to decide whether state "bans" on same-sex marriages are constitutional, but there has been no action taken as yet to add these to their docket.

Due to the length of the 14 amendments that will be on the November 4th ballot, we will not be including them in the October newsletter. There will be copies available at the October 21st luncheon meeting. Feel free to take a copy home with you. If you would like this information sent to you by email please send your request to Donna Pelletier at donnaapel@bellsouth.net.

Voter Checklist - November 4, 2014

This is the order the amendments will appear on the ballot

- | YES | NO | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Medical trust fund and healthcare provider base rate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Hospital assessment, trust fund and fee formula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Sales of property with delinquent taxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Fund transfers for an infrastructure bank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Elimination of the mandatory retirement age of judges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Higher millage cap for police and fire protection in Orleans Parish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Property tax exemption for certain disabled veterans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Artificial Reef Development Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Tax exemption reporting for permanently disabled residents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Tax sale of vacant, blighted or abandoned property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Increases the number of state departments from 20 to 21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Orleans Lower Ninth Ward vacant property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Tax rebates, incentives and abatements |



U. S. Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr. M.D.

LOUISIANA ENERGY MEANS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Louisiana is cultivating a booming energy economy that is driving low unemployment and more opportunities for families across our state. Currently, the unemployment rate in Lafayette remains below 4%, while the unemployment rate nationwide, is much higher. That is no accident. That is the result of good policies meeting businesses halfway and allowing them to grow and take advantage of our state's abundant natural resources in a responsible way.

Much of the success we are experiencing in our state is driven by increased energy production which provides good-paying jobs for Louisiana families. In South Louisiana, energy production is the catalyst for job creation, creating a ripple effect that provides greater activity in support industries such as manufacturing and transportation that are just as critical as those directly involved in production and refinement. This is what allows our economy to thrive.

In Southwest Louisiana, billions of dollars in new investment are pouring into our state in the form of new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities that will employ thousands of Louisiana workers. With our superior technology, infrastructure, and abundance of natural gas, America has the potential to become the dominant global force in producing and exporting natural gas. Louisiana is on the leading edge of this effort, with multiple facilities already approved and under construction. We will be the very first state to begin exporting LNG just next year.

President Obama has much to learn from Louisiana. His outright refusal to approve the Keystone XL pipeline against the recommendations of many in his own Administration highlights an outright hostility to new energy production. His Administration's pointless moratorium on offshore drilling reinforces this. It's a shame. This pipeline would provide thousands of direct new jobs across the United States. It would allow us to build a North American energy infrastructure that could allow us to lessen our dependence on foreign energy.

We are an energy state. Our successful economy demonstrates when you unleash the potential of energy production, everyone can benefit. I fight every day in Washington to promote energy policies that allow Louisiana to continue its momentum and to continue attracting new businesses. That's what I am proud to do as Louisiana's voice in Congress.

LOUISIANA VA HOSPITAL LACKS PAJAMAS AND SHEETS, BUT SPENDS MILLIONS ON NEW FURNITURE, TVS AND SOLAR PANELS

By Tori Richards

Published October 01, 2014

watchdog.org

Patients at the Shreveport, La., Veterans Affairs hospital have been going without toothbrushes, toothpaste, pajamas, sheets and blankets while department officials spend money on new Canadian-made furniture, televisions to run public service announcements and solar panels, a Watchdog investigation has revealed. Sources inside the hospital told Watchdog.org that patients also have had to contend with substandard care, as many nurses spend less time on work than on cell phones, iPods or accessing personal data on hospital computers.

According to the VA, the department spent \$74,412 on 24 flat screen TVs for "patient/employee information", plus \$134,082 for furniture and approximately \$3 million on the solar panel project.

Sheets and blankets often have holes or are threadbare. Pajamas are missing buttons or snaps and many are ripped. The patients who even get these items are the lucky ones. By the weekend, the hospital runs out while waiting for its supply of laundry to arrive from 125 miles away, where it was cleaned at another VA hospital in Pineville, La.

A hospital employee reported, "I can't tell you how many times a blanket will be opened and there will still be the electrode pads stuck to it from the last patient". And the pajamas still have tape on them from the last person's IV".

RATTLESNAKE LOGIC

As long as we insist on maintaining the "moral high ground" we will NEVER win the war on terrorism. We're in a conflict in which we absolutely insist in playing by the rules against a maniacal group who has no rules.

Rattlesnake Logic

After the Boston bombing the news media spent days and weeks trying to determine why these men did what they did. They want to know what America did to make these brothers so angry with us. They want to know why these men were not arrested before they did something so terrible. The media is in a tizzy about this new era of home-grown radicals, and about why they could live among us and still hate us.

A friend from Texas explained it here: "Here in west Texas I have rattlesnakes on my place, living among us. I have killed a rattlesnake on the front porch. I have killed a rattlesnake on the back porch. I have killed rattlesnakes in the barn, in the shop and on the driveway. In fact, I kill every rattlesnake I encounter.

I kill rattlesnakes because I know a rattlesnake will bite me and inject me with poison. I don't stop to wonder why a rattlesnake will bite me; I know it will bite me because it's a rattlesnake and that's what rattlesnakes do. I don't try to reason with a rattlesnake...I just kill it. I don't try to get to know the rattlesnake better so I can find a way to live with the rattlesnakes and convince them not to bite me. I just kill them. I don't quiz a rattlesnake to see if I can find out where the other snakes are, because (a) it won't tell me, and (b) I already know they live on my place. So, I just kill the rattlesnake and move on to the next one.

I don't look for ways I might be able to change the rattlesnake to a non-poisonous rat snake...I just kill it. Oh, and on occasion, I accidentally kill a rat snake because I thought it was a rattlesnake at the time. Also, I know, for every rattlesnake I kill, two more are lurking out there in the brush. In my lifetime I will never be able to rid my place of rattlesnakes. Do I fear them? No!

Do I respect what they can do to me? Yes! And because of that respect I give them the fair justice they deserve.... I kill them..."

Maybe as a country we should start giving more thought to the fact that these jihadists' are just like rattlesnakes, and act accordingly!

I love this country; it's the darn government I'm afraid of.

OPEN PRIMARY ELECTIONS ATTRACT LOTS OF CRITICS

By Marissa Shuler The Advocate News Bureau

The state's open primary system - called "jungle primaries" by national opinion makers - has been a fixture for decades. It is the legacy of former Gov. Edwards from back in the days when the Democrats ruled the state and Republicans could only elect a few of their number.

In the open primary system, voters, regardless of their party registration, can cast ballots for anyone on the list of candidates, regardless of their party affiliation. The top two vote-getters, no matter what party, advance to a runoff election. Unless a candidate wins an outright majority of the votes cast.

The Republican Party intends to make a new push for a return to the closed party primary election system that most states use. In that system, Republicans and Democrats - in separate elections - would choose who would become the party's candidate in the general election.

In a resolution passed last weekend, The Louisiana GOP's ruling hierarchy said the "government of the people, and by the people requires that the people have first voice in choosing their representatives" and so the state should return to the closed primary system to allow that to happen. They have urged the State Legislature to change state law and revert to the closed primary.

