



The Conservative Voice

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 Password: nfrw1938

Dear ARW members,

It is with great pride that I announce that Acadiana Republican Women won 10 first place awards at the recent Louisiana Federation of Republican Women's Biennial Convention in Alexandria, La. Plus, ARW won the Marion Kurfiss Award for 2015, which is the Highest Degree of Club Achievement, that the LFRW presents every two years. ARW's candidate, Hillary Soulier, won the Ginny Martinez \$1,500 Scholarship Award. Peggy Buckels won the Betty Heitman Leadership Award and the 2017 LFRW Biennial Convention Attendance Award was presented in memory of Trula Russek in honor of her dedicated service and in recognition of her valuable contributions to the Louisiana Federation of Republican Women. Our members walked off with 15 awards over all.

I am so proud of all of our ARW members who put in so many hours working on the various projects for which we participated. I certainly hope we can shine as well at the National Federation of Republican Women's Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in Sept.

Now it is time to start focusing on the many elections that will be coming up this fall. ARW will be asking all our members to once again volunteer to work for the various candidates running for office and help with their campaign committee efforts.

With at least three women, from our area, now running for office this fall, it will be a great time for ARW members to show Acadiana that **WOMEN IN NUMBERS = WIN!**

Come join in our efforts to elect more Republicans to office this fall.

God bless,

Donna Pelletier

ARW wins again for having the number **ONE club in the state.**

Walked off with 15 awards over all.

MARCH ARW MEETING



Speakers for the March ARW luncheon meeting were Lafayette City Parish Council members Jared Bellard, William Theriot and Andy Naquin. They discussed with the members the pending Comprehensive Plan that the city parish government is proposing as well as the current proposed budget. It was a fun and educating event as many questions came from the members and all were answered.



MEET YOUR NEW LFRW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

From left to right: Region 7 VP, Michelle Pichon, Region 6 VP, Pat Cabrel, Region 5 VP, Maydra Pomeroy, Region 4 VP, Glenda Stark, Region 3 VP. Peggy Buckels, Region 2 VP, Tammy Banks, Region 1 VP, Rosemarie Meehan, Corresponding Secretary and Webmaster, Carita Wilson, Treasurer, Joann Parker, Recording Secretary, Heidi Martin, Executive Vice President, Wanda Aizpurua, out going LFRW President, June Williams, newly elected LFRW President, Gena Gore and U. S. Senator Bill Cassidy,

Ever Play Scrabble ?

Take the letters in the name
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Look what you get when you
Rearrange the letters
An Arab Backed Imposter

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR 2015**

City Council meetings are held the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM

Lafayette Parish Executive Committee (PEC)
Meets the **2nd Thursday of each month** from 5:30 to 6:30

Republican State Central Committee Meeting
April 25, 2015 Saturday. 10:00 AM
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) Building
3113 Valley Creek Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

ARW has regularly scheduled monthly Executive Committee meetings the **2nd Wednesday of each month**. These meeting are held from 9:30 to 12 noon at the Southside Library.

ARW monthly luncheon meetings are scheduled on the **3rd Tuesday of each month** These meetings are from 11 to 1 at River Oaks Catering Center and the cost for the buffet lunch is \$20. **Reservations are required.**

LFRW Day at the Legislature
May 19, 2015

LFRW Spring Board meeting June 6th
at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge, La

***May ARW lunch moving to WEDNESDAY,
May 20th**

EGGSTRAVAGANZA EASTER EGG EVENT



Several members of ARW attended the Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 3, 2015 at the Youngsville Sports Center in an effort to Register Voters. Pictured are Gail Dysart, Pat Soulier and ARW President Donna Pelletier. Not pictured were, Randy Soulier, Lisa Claiborne and John and Maryann Oller. It was cold and windy but everyone had fun.

MEMBERSHIP

Pat Soulier, membership chairman, reports that ARW already has 110 members and 21 associate members as of April 1, 2015. She tells us the membership committee will be presenting a prize to the member who brings in the most **new members** and the most **guests** to our meetings by the end of April. In December the member who has brought in the most new members for the **year** will have their membership dues paid by ARW for 2016. If you have any questions regarding this membership drive please contact Pat at 981-7075.

ARW SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Marsha Vining, Scholarship Chairman, and her committee are pleased to announce the recipients of the ARW Scholarship awards for the 2015 graduating senior ladies of Lafayette Parish. **Madison Proctor** is graduating from Teurlings Catholic High School and plans to attend either UL or LSU in the fall where she will be majoring in nursing. **Kayla Marceaux** is graduating from Lafayette High and plans to attend UL where she will be majoring in Chemical Engineering. Both of these young ladies have exemplified great leadership and academic qualities. We look forward to meeting these wonderful future Republican Women at our April meeting.



LAFAYETTE PARISH FOOD NET DRIVE

It has come to our attention that the shelves are getting bare at the Parish Food Net warehouse. ARW is asking each member attending the meeting on Tuesday, April 21st to please bring a few food items for our Food Drive. Pat Soulier will deliver the food items to them right after the meeting on Tuesday.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

ARW is asking all members to start clipping the Box tops for Education from the many products in your pantry. Help us help the schools collect the box tops that they in turn exchange for computers for their classrooms, play ground equipment and other needed items for the schools. Bring them to our monthly meetings so we can give them to schools we are working to sponsor and support.



SHOPPING TIME AT ARW

ARW is asking for your support in helping us raise funds to support our many projects planned for 2015. Come prepared to shop at the April meeting.



Help show your support for the local law enforcement officers by purchasing one of these magnetic ribbons and placing it on your car. The ribbons are **\$5 each**. They are blue in color with a white trim.



LFRW Coffee Mugs - \$12
Also available in blue



American car flags - \$10

We will also have available the Red umbrella's with the white elephant which sale for \$20 and a nice selection of jewelry.

SPEAKERS FOR APRIL, MAY and JUNE

APRIL - Matt Parker, candidate for Louisiana Insurance Commissioner

MAY— Julie Emerson who is running against Democrat Steve Ortego and Carol Ross who is running for Keith Patin's seat on the Lafayette City Council.

JUNE—Will be the candidates for Lafayette Parish Sheriff: Chad Leger, Rick Chargois, Mark Garber and John Rodgers.

LFRW BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne accepted the 2011 Legislative Quilt from the LFRW at the recent Biennial Convention in Alexandria, LA. The quilt was handmade by members of the Acadiana Republican Women in 2011. It was originally won in a ARW Fundraising raffle by Billy Nungesser who graciously donated it to the LFRW to use in the best manner they chose. The quilt will now hang in the Louisiana Museum in Baton Rouge, LA.



America's Problem - The current financial crisis explained in a single picture:



This financial crisis is forcing state and local agencies to make some tough decisions. If things continue for much longer, there's a real risk that we may have to lay off Jose. (He is the guy actually working.)

What would you like to see ARW do that we are not doing at this time? Would a night meeting suit your time better?

On closing the Guantanamo prison for terrorists:

"If he really wants to close it, turn it into a government-funded solar power company. The doors will be shut in a month". Jay Leno

LFRW GINNY MARTINEZ SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

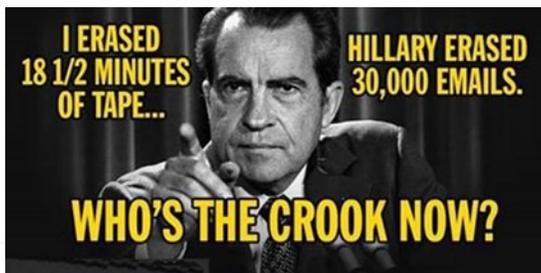


Hillary Soileau, winner of the \$1,500 LFRW Ginny Martinez Scholarship, was ARW's nomination this year. She is attending graduate school at Oklahoma University in Norman, Ok., where she is working on her law degree. She came in from school to attend the LFRW biennial convention and to accept the scholarship, that

was presented by Peggy Spiceland, chairman of the LFRW Ginny Martinez Scholarship Committee. Then, she had to turn around and drive back to school for a test on Monday.



ARW delegates attending the LFRW Biennial Convention in Alexandria, LA from left to right: Annie Viator, Sarah Billeaud, Pat Soulier, Mattie Patterson, Gail Dysart, Ursula Anderson, Donna Pelletier, Patti Carter, Lisa Claiborne, Helen Granger, Whitney Carter, Carita Wilson and Marsha Vining. Missing from the picture is Peggy Buckels.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR APRIL 2015

By Patti Carter

LOCAL

Twelve individuals have applied to be the next Lafayette Parish School Superintendent. Only six of the twelve currently hold a Louisiana superintendent certification. Even though this certification is not required by state law, the local school board can choose to require this qualification. On April 9th, the Lafayette Parish School Board will name 3 finalists out of the twelve applicants and interview them before the public April 22nd, at the school board office.

Ms. Julie Emerson, a 27 year old registered Republican from Carencro, will be challenging Rep. Stephen Ortego (D-Carencro) of District 39 in the fall election this year. Her family is heavily involved in the oil & gas industry. Julie owns her own business and will be new to the political arena.

A coalition of health care advocates is supporting a legislative effort to raise the tax \$1.16 on a pack of cigarettes. It will be House Bill 119. Gov. Bobby Jindal has indicated he is agreeable to signing such a bill.

The Lafayette City-Parish Council voted "no" to extend a 1% sales tax renewal to fund further development at I-10 and Louisiana Avenue. This area had an expiring TIF tax, (tax increment funding), and the current rate for purchases before April 1st was 9%. With the advent of an additional 1% to fund the proposed new airport terminal, the sales tax would have gone up to 10%. Councilman Boudreaux, who represents that area of Lafayette, said that he plans on bringing this Issue up again at the next meeting. The expiring extra 1% TIF tax initially was put in place in 2006 to generate money for roadwork, drainage, and infrastructure at this interchange to attract Target and a shopping center to the area. TIF taxes are put into areas where there is no development "at all" so as to attract commerce. Lafayette had to pay for the costs of all infrastructures before anything was built, and is now responsible for maintenance of it going forward. The revenue derived from the extra 1% was approximately \$9 million, from 2006 till now. This only "partially" paid for bonds and expenses Lafayette had to incur! Exact figures were not revealed. Now we have councilman Boudreaux trying to get this additional 1% TIF tax "put back" in place to generate \$3 million or more for infrastructure extension in the form of more roads, drainage, street lights etc. to the northern side of the interchange for a client represented by real estate developer Cecil Trahan. Ladies, at this point the interchange is developed, so the citizens of Lafayette should not have to pay their own tax money for infrastructure benefiting a developer who can afford to buy 60 acres of land to build a shopping center!! (By the way, we are still waiting for our city and neighborhood streets to be repaired.)

STATE

A Constitutional Amendment filed by State Rep. Marcus Hunter (D-Monroe) will allow convicted felons to vote while they are still in prison serving their sentences. This goes against the law

in place that specifically does not allow this to occur. Many have expressed how vulnerable and dangerous this would make prisoners. They could easily be paid or forced to vote in certain ways.

State Rep. Mike Johnson (R-Bossier City), has filed a bill that would allow private businesses to refuse to recognize same-sex marriage should it become legal in Louisiana. The legislation would allow a private company to "not" offer the same benefits to legally recognized same-sex "married" couples, based on religious objections. This issue promises to be a very controversial one in the upcoming legislative session.

State Rep. Bryan Adams (R-Gretna), has filed a bill that would raise the homestead exemption in Louisiana from \$75,000. To \$100,000. The bill will most likely be met with opposition from local governments.

State Sen. Elbert Guillory and other legislators have introduced bills to determine whether life begins at conception. These same kind of bills introduced in other states are called "personhood" bills. If approved, the legislature and the voters would have to have a say on the issue. Planned Parenthood and similar organizations have been against these bills. One troubling aspect of Sen. Guillory's thoughts on this bill is that he has stated that he has no problem with parents of unborn children being to be able to take an income tax deduction or draw welfare benefits before the child is even born !! Many states, at least 8-10 of them, have introduced "personhood" legislation, with none passing.

FEDERAL

There has been a second wave of unaccompanied illegal immigrant children crossing the Mexican border into the United States last month! More than 3000 of them have entered the U.S. illegally last month! This is the highest rate since the peak of last summer's crisis. 2015 is shaping up to be the second biggest surge on record. Authorities report having captured 15,647 children, without parents trying to jump the border in just the first part of this year.

President Obama is now trying to set up a program to fly the parents of these illegal children "into" this country instead of deporting the children back to their parents in Nicaragua, San Salvador, Mexico, etc. This of course would be at U.S. taxpayer expense. When they get here, there will be no requirement for them to return to their home country.

Almost 500,000 illegal aliens have applied for California driver licenses in the first 3 months of this year, doubling the expectations under California's new "AB 60 Law". Under this new law, the DMV (Dept. of Motor Vehicles) in California is "not" allowed to share information placed on the form that would possibly lead to the deportations. The DMV is not allowed to contact ICE. No specifics are mentioned regarding auto insurance requirements.

Americans that are not in the Labor force have exceeded 93 million people for the first time ever. Now, at only 62.7%, it



Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr., M.D.

A Tax Code That Works

Sometimes, it almost seems like Washington doesn't want America's small businesses to succeed. Every year, the government piles on pages of new and burdensome regulations, imposes fines and fees on providing healthcare to employees, and makes it more and more difficult to grow a business. Small businesses are often so overwhelmed with this onslaught of paperwork many are forced to hire armies of accountants and lawyers just to ensure they operate in compliance with the law. There's no time these frustrating realities are more evident than in the lead-up to Tax Day.

This month, I held a Forum on Tax Policy with Senator David Vitter in Lafayette, where we brought together small business owners and tax experts from Louisiana to tell us how the federal government's complicated and onerous tax policy hurts their ability to succeed in Louisiana. I was disappointed but not surprised when Lafayette small business owner Sadie Shamsie outlined how compliance with the IRS costs her 9-person firm the equivalent of hiring one new employee. The aim of federal tax policy should be to work alongside businesses and encourage them to grow and develop, not to bury them under piles of paperwork and red tape. Today, we know that's not the case.

As Louisiana's voice on tax issues, I want to continue to hear from voices like Sadie Shamsie who consistently experience the negative effects of bad tax policy. I have the privilege of serving on the House Ways & Means Committee in Congress, which is charged with jurisdiction over tax and revenue policy. Under the leadership of Chairman Paul Ryan, our committee has begun to work on a comprehensive rewrite of the tax code. It is my goal to ensure our effort will accomplish the broad goals of making the tax code simpler and fairer by closing loopholes and lowering overall rates. That's just common sense.

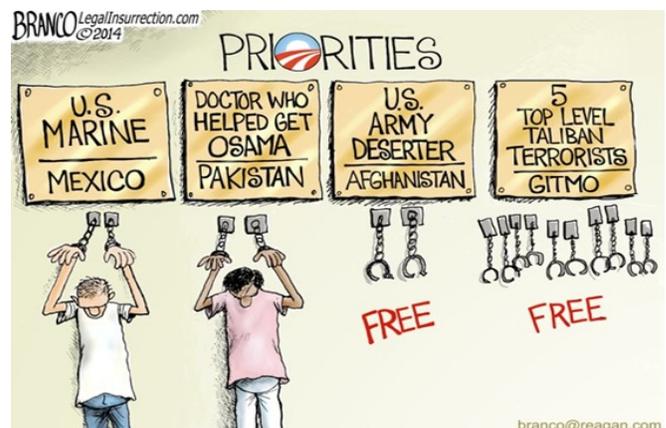
Louisiana needs a champion willing to stand up for small businesses and their employees who are suffering under our current tax code. I look forward to working with you to craft tax policy that encourages growth, job creation, and a healthy American economy that will promote opportunity and prosperity for all.

Legislative Report continued from page 6

matches a 37 year low.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) will hold their convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It begins on Thursday, April 9th and continues till Sunday April 12th. More than 70,000 people are expected to attend. All the presidential hopefuls will be present and many are scheduled to speak. This is a very important convention because this Congress will have many gun related bills to deliberate on Capitol Hill.

Americans must work till April 24th to achieve "Tax Freedom Day". Tax Freedom Day is when it is calculated that the nation as a whole has earned enough money to pay all their Federal, State, and Local taxes for the year. Then you make money for yourself!



DID YOU ATTEND THE CONSOLIDATED COUNCIL MEETING?

Did you hear that the Consolidate Council called another "emergency" meeting about the I-10 (Target) TIF for their meeting on April 13, 2015?

Why the rush?? Looks like they had to get something done that day to extend or "continue" this TIF, without having to go back for authorization or without having a vote of the people. Hard to tell exactly what's going on, since there's no explanation why the rush and they circumvented the public notice law by calling it an "emergency" meeting, which is a favorite ploy when you're trying to scam the taxpayers.

It was apparently a done deal, because when council members like William Theriot tried asking questions, which no one seemed to have answers for, he was accused of trying to embarrass the council.

This TIF extension was not necessary and is another example of good ole boy politics at its worst.

Acadiana Republican Women

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