



The Conservative Voice

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Dear ARW members,

Happy St Patrick's Day everyone. All of ARW is getting ready for the Louisiana Federation of Republican Women Biennial Convention in Alexandria at the end of the month. I am looking forward to a great turn out and to seeing all of our friends from around the state. We will be electing new officers for Louisiana Federation of Republican Women and getting ready for the National Federation of Republican Women Convention in Phoenix, Arizona this coming September.

We have elected our delegates to attend the Louisiana Federation of Republican Women Biennial Convention, and for several of these ladies, it will be the first time they have attended an LFRW Convention. We have two of our ARW members on the slate of officers that have been nominated for the election of new officers for the LFRW Executive Committee for 2015—2017. We will be co-hosting a party for the slate during the Convention and we are looking forward to visiting with members of the state federation from around the state.

The National Federation of Republican Women Convention is fast approaching. We will be recruiting members to attend this exciting national convention in Phoenix, Arizona. If any of our members are interested in attending this convention and participating in all the fun of electing new national officers for the NFRW Executive Committee please let us know. We would love to have you join us.

Closer to home this year we will be electing a new Lafayette city/parish President for Lafayette as well as a new Lafayette Parish Sheriff and several new city parish council members. Seems we always have an election to plan for and get involved with. All of our ARW members are encouraged to get involved with these elections and even consider running for office yourself. We need more women getting involved in politics in Louisiana and I am sure ARW could help provide qualified candidates.

Remember we are always looking for volunteers to help out with the many projects our various committees are working on. There is something to interest everyone so check out the newsletter and find a project or committee you would enjoy working with and then let us know. We have room for everyone to as involved as you want to be. If you have a bet project you would like ARW to consider please bring to my attention.

God bless,

Donna Pelletier

ARW CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARCH—MAY

- Mar 2 Book Club Meeting –10 AM Barnes & Nobles
- Mar 11 ARW Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 –12 Southside Library
- Mar 14 –21 Early voting for Special Election**
- Mar 17 ARW monthly luncheon meeting 11–1 River Oaks Catering Center. Speakers will be William Theriot, Andy Naquin and Jared Bellard
- Mar 23 U.S. Senator David Vitter and U.S. Congressman Charles Boustany Jr., MD invite you to a Forum on Energy Policy at 8:30AM at Lafayette City Hall
- Mar 27–29 LFRW Bi-annual Convention Alexandria, LA.**
- Mar 28 Lafayette PARISH SPECIAL ELECTION**
- April 5 **EASTER SUNDAY**
- April 6 Book Club Meeting—10 AM Barnes & Nobles
- April 8 ARW Board Committee Meeting 9:30—12 Southside Library. This meeting is open to the full ARW membership.
- April 21 ARW monthly luncheon meeting 11–1 River Oaks Catering Center. Speaker will be Matt Parker who is running for Insurance Com-Miner.
- May 2 A Conversation with Israel, a special dinner event With special guest speaker Joshua Hantman the Senior advisor to Ron Dermer the U.S. Ambassador from Israel. More information to follow.
- May 13 ARW Executive Committee meeting
- May 19 ARW luncheon meeting



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 location for meetings to be announced
Republican Central Committee

ARW has regularly scheduled monthly Executive Committee meetings the **2nd Wednesday of each month**. These meetings 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.**

ARW Book Club meets the **first Monday of each month** from 10–12 at Barnes and Nobel Book Store Gail Dysart is the chairman of this group.

LFRW will host the Biennial Convention in Alexandria, LA, March 27, 28 and 29th

The election of new officers for LFRW will be held at this meeting. Make your reservations today by calling the Best Western Inn and Suites in Alexandria.

LAFAYETTE PARISH SPECIAL ELECTION
March 28, 2015
EARLY VOTING is March 14—21st

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Helen Granger and her Literacy Committee volunteers were excited to participate in the Katherine Drexel Elementary School Read Across America project on Friday, March 6th from 9 to 11 AM. The 11 volunteers which included our own Dee Nolan aka The Cat in the Hat read books to the various classrooms and shared with the students the excitement of learning to read. The students also made individual floats depicting their interpretation of their favorite books. The students participating in the float contest were given the opportunity to pull their floats around the school in a Parade to show off their handy work. The best floats were given prizes by various sponsors. It was a fun day for all involved!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Pat Soulier, membership chairman, reports that ARW already has 102 members and 20 associate members as of March 1st. She tells us the membership committee will be presenting a prize to the member who has brought 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 have been busy contacting area high schools regarding the requirements to apply for the 2015 Scholarships. She is excited about the number of scholarship applications already coming in from area high school seniors.

U.S. Rep. John Fleming
Monday, March 9

U.S. Congressman John Fleming of Minden, LA. attend-



ed a gathering at the home of ARW members Ross and Julie Little, on Monday, March 9th. This event was attended by many local candidates running for office including Jeff Landry, who is running for LA. Attorney General. Those attending were given the opportunity to talk with Congressman Fleming and discuss many of the current issues being

voted on in Washington DC at this time.

Among the ARW members attending were Ross and Julie Little, Dr. John and Maryann Oller, Logan and Gail Dysart Pat Soulier, Joyce Linde, Judy Ames, Charles and Peggy Buckels, Mike and Sandy Hindelang, Connie Boyer and Todd Escalano.



SHOPPING TIME AT ARW

We all know how much fun it is to go shopping. ARW is asking for your support in helping us raise funds to support our many projects planned for 2015.



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

LFRW PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES



Members from around the state gathered to study and discuss the proposed changes to the LFRW by-laws prior to attending the LFRW Biennial Convention in Alexandria, LA. March 27-29.

LFRW 31st BIENNIAL CONVENTION

March 27, 28, 29, 2015
Alexandria, LA.

Come join us in attending the LFRW Biennial Convention. We will drive up on Friday, March 27th. We will attend educational workshops and meetings and on Sunday, March 29th, the delegates will cast their votes for the candidates running for positions on the LFRW Executive Committee. Learn who will be directing the LFRW for the next 2 years and meet and mingle with the state politicians running for office this year. It will be fun and a great learning opportunity for all those attending.

JANUARY, 2015 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Patti Carter

LOCAL

Lafayette’s “Project Front Yard” has begun. Back in October of 2014 this initiative was announced with many city clean-up issues being addressed. The city-parish government created a new position, so one person would be able to concentrate on directing the program dedicated to coordinating the various community groups. Some of the projects are anti-litter campaigns and illegal temporary signs tacked to utility poles needing removal. Also, it was announced that Republic Services would partner with Lafayette in a program called “Neighborhood Cleanup”, in which the garbage trucks that would normally pick up yard waste once a week, would be used to pick up larger household items left curbside by residences. What Lafayette Consolidated Government forgot to mention was that your “normal yard waste” (picked up weekly), would not be picked up during this six week period! Some people’s leaf bags have been sitting on their driveways for three weeks now!

This same “Project Front Yard” effort called “again” for a study on buying utility lines and easements along Johnston Street and other major thoroughfares in Lafayette. City-Parish officials have been discussing “buying” these lines for about 10 years. A study released two years ago estimated it would cost \$24 million per mile because of rights-of-way with sewer, water, gas, telephone, and cable lines that would all have to be moved! Terry Huval of LUS Utility System said that other cities with similar projects have been funded through a “TAX” or special “charge” on utility bills! Some of us would just like to have our streets repaved or pot holes fixed!! Thankfully this project has been shelved.

On March 28th Lafayette voters will be asked to vote in favor of re-directing two millage rates, already in place, into one “public health” millage. Right now mosquito control and the health unit are over-funded, while animal control needs are under-funded. By combining the mileages, not “increasing” them, animal control will receive the money they need to build a new larger facility that is greatly needed. The city is asking everyone to vote “yes”.

STATE

April 13th will mark the start of the Louisiana Legislative session. The state begins this session with a deficit of \$1.6 billion. This will definitely be the focus for legislators. Other issues on the forefront will be Common Core and new taxes.

Two legislators, Rep. Bill Nevers of Bogalusa and Rep. Harold Ritchie of Bogalusa, both Democrats, plan on filing companion bills in the upcoming state legislative session to set up a 4% oil and natural gas processing tax to bring in a new revenue stream via hydrocarbon processors in the state. They want to place a constitutional amendment on the state ballot to allow voters to decide on this tax. Governor Bobby Jindal is eyeing some of the \$9 million of un-cashed lottery tickets that accumulate “each” year in Louisiana to help balance the budget. State Rep. Helena Moreno is also looking at using \$2.5 million of this money to fund more state police for the French Quarter in New Orleans. This amount of money would support approximately 25 more officers.

FEDERAL

The U.S. State Dept. plans to accept thousands of Syrian refugees into the United States by the end of 2016. Since 1980, the world’s refugee program has been handled through the United Nations High Commissioner on refugees! The commissioner approves individuals for refugee status and then assigns them to various host countries. The U.S. can reject any refugee assigned by the U.N., if it discovers the person’s ties to terrorism during the vetting process, and, if there is time allowed for proper vetting. The U.S. State Dept. said in December of 2014 that it was currently processing more than 9000 refugee applications referred by the United Nations for entry into this country. Many are shocked that resettlement agencies have lobbied the White House and Congress to allow up to 75,000 Syrians into this country as refugees during the next 5 years. Americans should be very concerned!



GREAT PRESIDENTS

You might be quite surprised ...Most of us know of the comparable relationship between Lincoln and Kennedy, but have you ever considered the comparisons between President Obama and President Lincoln?

Parallels of Abraham Lincoln and Barack Hussein Obama.

1. Lincoln placed his hand on the Bible for his inauguration. Obama used the very same bible Lincoln used for his inauguration.
2. Lincoln came from Illinois. Obama comes from Illinois.
3. Lincoln served in the Illinois Legislature. Obama served in the Illinois Legislature.
4. Lincoln had very little experience before becoming President. Obama had very little experience before becoming President.
5. Lincoln rode the train from Philadelphia to Washington for his inauguration. Obama rode the train from Philadelphia to Washington for his inauguration.
6. Lincoln was highly respected by some, but intensely disliked by others. Obama is highly respected by some, but intensely disliked by others.
7. Abraham Lincoln was a tall, skinny lawyer. Barack Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.
8. Lincoln held to basic Conservative and Christian views. Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.
9. Lincoln volunteered in the Illinois militia, once as a captain, twice as a private. Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.
10. Lincoln firmly believed in able persons carrying their own weight. Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.
11. Lincoln was undeniably, and without any doubt, born in the United States. Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.
12. Lincoln was honest - so honest that he was called 'Honest Abe'. Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.
13. Lincoln preserved the United States as a strong nation, respected by the world. Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.
14. Lincoln showed his obvious respect for the flag, U. S. Constitution, and the military. Obama is a tall, skinny lawyer.

Amazing isn't it!!



Spring Board of Directors Meeting March 19-21

There's a busy agenda in store when the NFRW Board of Directors convenes at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, in Washington D.C., next week for their Spring 2015 meeting.

Featured speakers include the Honorable **Newt Gingrich**, former Virginia First Lady **Susan Allen**, and nationally recognized pollster **Kellyanne Conway**.

Several members of ARW are taking a road trip to Washington D.C. to attend the NFRW Spring Board Meeting. We will be looking forward to hearing a full report on all the fun that was had from Peggy Buckels, Joann Parker and Heidi Martin when they return!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Attending our February meeting was quite a challenge for those brave souls who dared to challenge the weather conditions! We were honored to have courageous members of the LFRW Executive Committee attend this meeting. We also had two candidates running for positions on the LFRW Executive Board to join us and to share with us their qualifications for those positions.



Carita Wilson, Gisela Chevalier, Donna Pelletier, Gena Gore, Joann Parker, Heidi Martin and former LFRW President Jessie Morton.

BOOK CLUB



Gail Dysart reminds all those members of the Book Club that they will be reading the following books.

April: A Long Walk to Water by Linda S. Park

May: The High Divide by Lin Enger

June: Etta and Otto and Russell and James



Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr., M.D.

ObamaCare could finally be on the ropes. That's because oral arguments before the Supreme Court in the *King v. Burwell* case have begun. This important case seeks to establish whether the Obama Administration's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has the authority to rewrite the ObamaCare law to allow the federal government to distribute subsidies directly to healthcare consumers through a federal exchange. That's a wordy argument – but in reality it's pretty simple. The case asks: does the Obama Administration have the right to change laws passed by Congress to fit its own ends?

The Founding Fathers say no. They constructed our government based on a system of checks and balances – a system on which the Obama Administration has sought to muddy the waters when it's been unable to achieve its agenda through regular constitutional order. The Founding Fathers gave very straightforward marching orders to each coequal branch: Congress writes laws, the courts interpret them, and the President enforces them. I have yet to find a clause or paragraph in the Constitution that allows the Executive to act on its accord when it doesn't get what it wants. What is clear: it's the Judicial Branch's obligation to hold the Executive accountable when it's out of line. That's what *King v. Burwell* is all about.

But if the Supreme Court follows through with a decision eliminating the federal government's ability to distribute subsidies through a federal government-run exchange, it will leave families across the country with Washington-mandated healthcare coverage they won't be able to afford. This presents an opportunity for Congress to show leadership. Already, I'm working with Paul Ryan and my colleagues in Congress to come up with a solution that will do two things: remove onerous federal mandates on American families and businesses, and restore choice in the marketplace for healthcare consumers. That's what Americans were promised when ObamaCare was passed – those promises have been broken on many levels. Now, with this ruling, we have a chance to finally follow through.

The Founding Fathers created a system that would uphold the rule of law and protect the American people from all forms of tyranny. This system has endured a civil war, multiple world wars, depressions, and recessions. Now, it is up to us to work to preserve this legacy. That's why the *King v. Burwell* case is so important, and why I'll continue to promote policies that encourage freedom and opportunity for all Americans.

Acadiana Republican Women

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