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Lafayette, LA 70505

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Use your email address & password issued to you by

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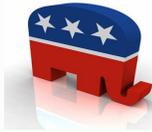
LFRW President 2017-2019**Gena Gore****NFRW**Web site: www.NFRW.org

Member Web site: Use your email address & password issued to you by

NFRW



The Conservative Voice



President's Message to: Members and Associates of Acadiana Republican Women.

Personally, I want to thank all of you for renewing and joining or planning to renew your membership. And to all of the new members joining for 2018, welcome to Acadiana Republican Women. It was disappointing to all, that our first 2018 luncheon was canceled due to the weather conditions; however, our Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons have been working on ARW duties all during the month of January.

Our Newsletter will be sent out the first week of each month, starting with this one. Please take the time to read everything, as there will always be important information on ARW, LFRW and NFRW activities. Included will be information on legislation, reports from our elected officials and special "just for fun" posts.

Please get to know the Committee Chairpersons, as volunteers are needed for our various activities. It is always a great experience working with Committees, as friendships are made, new people are met, the Republican Party is advertised and a great sense of accomplishment is felt.

You will be kept updated on elections throughout the year. There is a possibility that we may have City/Parish elections or propositions as early as March 24 and May 5, as these dates have been set aside for this reason.

Hopefully everyone will attend our February meeting/luncheon. Reservations are required (information on another page) and guests are welcome, with names given at the time you make your reservations.

ARW will have a great 2018 with great women of the Lafayette area.

Have a safe and Happy Mardi Gras!

Patricia Soulier

President, Acadiana Republican Women

ARW monthly luncheon meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each Month.

**River Oaks Catering Center, Camille Room
11:00AM/1:00PM. COST: Buffet Lunch, \$20**

One Exception:

April 17, 2018 will be a night meeting for presentation of the ARW Scholarship.

Time: TBA COST: Buffet Dinner, \$20

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 Scholarship:

The application for the 2017-2018 scholarship award has been sent out to all Lafayette Parish schools that have graduating senior girls. If you know of a graduating senior girl, GPA 3.2 and above, you can email Marsha Vining for a copy of the application, to be submitted by March 1, 2018.

marsha.vining@evusa.com



Happy Valentine's Day

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2018

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

SAVE THE DATE

March 22, 2018

NFRW Legislative Day on Capitol Hill

Washington D.C.

More information coming soon

LFRW 2018 Spring Board Meeting

April 6 & 7

Hilton Garden Inn

400 Mane St

West Monroe, LA

Reservations: 318-398-0653 Rooms \$109

More information coming soon

ATTENTION

Don't forget to RSVP for the ARW monthly meeting by the Sunday evening before the meeting date. RSVP should be sent to Connie Boyer at conray2@cox.net.



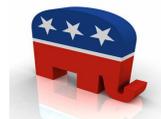
Meet Ursula Anderson, ARW second vice-president and membership chair. Please fill out and return to her your 2018 ARW membership application.

*Ursula is here to answer all of your membership questions. Contact Ursula @ umanderson@yahoo.com
Or email ARW @ acadianarepublicanwomen2018@cox.net*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ARW 2018-2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Pictured from left to right: Ursula Anderson, Second Vice President; Marsha Vining, First Vice President; Pat Soulier, President; Sarah Billeaud, Recording Secretary; Marian Laughlin, Corresponding Secretary; Connie Boyer, Co-Treasurer; and Betty Myrick, Co-Treasurer.



Information from the 2017 Annual report from the office of Congressman Clay Higgins, Louisiana 3rd District:

Information provided by Jerod Prunty, Field Representative for Congressman Higgins

“It is my great honor to represent the patriots of Louisiana’s third district in the United States Congress. I am committed to open and transparent communications as your representative. My office is working tirelessly on behalf of South Louisiana families, and I hope that you will review the activities and priorities of your third district office this year.” - Congressman Clay Higgins

Congressman Higgins has been fighting for Louisiana in Congress:

Supporting Oil & Gas: South Louisiana’s energy industry is the lifeblood of our economy. This Congress is making great strides to get the federal government out of the way and help the industry recover after nearly a decade of regulatory overreach. I am working to expand offshore drilling, expediate LNG permit approvals, and bring new jobs and economic growth to our state.

Largest Oil & Gas Lease Sale in History: Working with President Trump’s administration, we have announced the largest oil & gas lease sale in history, scheduled for March 2018. This will expand offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico by 77 million acres, creating new jobs in Louisiana.

Infrastructure Funding for Louisiana: I’ve been a vocal advocate for modernizing South Louisiana’s infrastructure. My office has helped secure more than \$55 million in federal funding to improve our bridges, ports, waterways, airports and roadways.

New VA Community Outpatient Clinics: In the last year, veterans in South Louisiana have seen state-of-the-art VA facilities open in Lafayette and Lake Charles. These facilities will touch the lives of many veterans. I am working to increase access to care and restore accountability at the VA.

Growing Our Economy: Creating new jobs and economic growth is my highest priority in Congress. I voted to pass the *Tax Cuts & Jobs Act*, the *Financial CHOICE Act*, and a historic number of Congressional Review Acts. These measures lower taxes, eliminate burdensome regulations, and allow small businesses to thrive—meaning more jobs and economic growth for South Louisiana.

Securing our Borders: As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I sponsored the *Border Security for America Act*, which fully authorizes the border wall and other tactical barriers. I also voted to pass *Kate’s Law* and other measures that crackdown on sanctuary cities. Securing our borders and combating illegal immigration is essential to keeping our communities safe.

Trade Wins For Louisiana Farmers: My office was a significant voice in opening trade with China for Louisiana rice producers and helped negotiate an improved sugar deal with Mexico for sugarcane farmers. These victories will increase trade revenues and grow Louisiana’s economy.

Rolling Back Regulatory Overreach: This Congress has taken historic efforts to make government small, effective, and efficient. For every new measure enacted, we have eliminated 16 burdensome and unnecessary regulations, leading to more economic growth and business success.

Dredging the Calcasieu Channel: The Calcasieu Ship Channel and the Port of Lake Charles are vital to the \$120 billion of private investment projects in Southwest Louisiana. My office has secured \$32 million for dredging, bringing funding to its highest level in a decade.

2017 Numbers from Congressman Clay Higgins' Annual Report

Information provided by Jerod Prunty, Field Representative for Congressman Higgins

13 Bills Authored

93 Bills Co-sponsored

4 Bills Passed

10 Town Hall Meetings

14 Classified Briefings

81 GOP Member Only Meetings

128 Committee Hearings

684 Roll Call Votes

752 Constituent Cases Resolved

8,800 + Constituents Met

40,529 Constituent Responses

Congressman Higgins has met with hundreds of groups, businesses and officials including:

Lafayette Consolidated Government

Lafayette Airport Commission

Acadian Ambulance

Zoo of Acadiana

Youngsville City Government

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Lafayette General Hospital

Lafayette Kiwanis Club

Please note:

Acadiana Republican Women has a new email address:

acadianarepublicanwomen2018@cox.net

Don't forget to get your door prize tickets from Dee Nolan at the next meeting!!



**Happy
Mardi
Gras!!**

Louisiana Congresswoman Julie Emerson and Sarah Dake with AFP at the Washington D.C. Mardi Gras Ball (Both ARW Members)



LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2018

By Patti Carter

LOCAL

Mayor Joel Robideaux told the news media in December that his public works department has been evaluating projects to improve drainage in Lafayette and Lafayette Parish. They have been preparing a list of coulees, canals, and drainage areas that are in need of the most work. His department has also looked at where there was home flooding. Mayor Robideaux stated that this list will be made public in January so that residents and officials can review and discuss their findings.

The direction of downtown Lafayette is still of major concern to the city administration. There are many empty storefronts as businesses have continually shut down. New bars may now be allowed to open in downtown in 2018. Since 2003, no new bars have been allowed. Now, a newly created ordinance would allow a conditional use permit to allow operation of additional bars. Under this proposal, anyone wanting to open a bar would first apply with Lafayette Consolidated Government for a "conditional" use permit. If this request meets certain restrictions, then it would go before the Zoning Commission. Then back to the City Council for final approval. This ordinance was passed by the city council on January 9, 2018.

On Tuesday January 9th the Lafayette City-Parish Council voted to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Kevin Naquin of District 1 is the new Chair and Bruce Conque is the new Vice-Chair.

STATE

Louisiana will have 20 new, or rewritten laws starting in 2018. Two of these new laws are: Business owners in the 14 most populated parishes, will have to file online all of their business documents owed to the Secretary of State. Formerly, notifications and filings could be done via paperwork forwarded via mail, with the option of online. Another new law will require new

drivers seeking to be licensed to receive training on how to properly respond to police during a traffic stop.

Governor John Bel Edwards has set a deadline of January 19th for Louisiana House Republicans to come up with their own plan for keeping the state on firm fiscal footing, or as he has stated, keep Louisiana off a "fiscal cliff." The extra 1% sales tax added a few years ago, which brought Louisiana up to a state sales tax of 5%, expires June 30, 2018. Without further cuts to the state budget, and without the 1% renewal, it has been said that Louisiana will be about \$1 billion short in revenues. Governor Edwards plan includes changing state income tax brackets, adding various services that were exempt from sales taxes to now being taxable, possibly charging businesses and industries taxes on their utilities they buy and cutting funding to education in various forms.

Forty-six states have legalized some form of medical marijuana. There is federal legal protection for medical marijuana growers, processors, sellers, and users in the form of a temporary Congressional measure that prohibits the U.S. Dept of Justice from using government funds to target them. In Louisiana, only the agricultural centers at LSU and Southern University are allowed to grow medicinal grade marijuana. Both universities hope to have their growing facilities ready by March of this year. Louisiana law, which passed in 2015, allows the use of medicinal pot for people with cancer, seizures, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and other severe disorders. The marijuana will be available in oils, pills, sprays and some topical, but not in a form that can be smoked. No dispensing pharmacies have been selected yet.

FEDERAL

President Donald Trump has requested \$18 billion in funding to construct the wall at the southern border of the United States. The money would cover all costs in relation to the wall, which would take approximately 10 years to complete. The wall would encompass 700 miles of new replacement barriers and would expand the current 654 miles to nearly 1000 miles. Past Congresses appropriated money for the wall, but never acted on the project. President Trump promised a wall in his campaign and is making good on this promise. If the border wall stopped just 10 percent of new illegal immigrants, it would save American taxpayers for supporting these people over their lifetimes, according to the Center for Immigration Studies. This center, which advocates for a crackdown on illegal immigration, says that it is a net drain of \$75,000 per person, minimum, over their lifetimes. Stopping just 200,000 border jumpers over the next decade would save the U.S. taxpayers \$15 billion dollars. This savings would increase if those already here illegally were deported, and would be prevented from returning by the wall.

Tina Smith will become Minnesota's newest Senator, replacing Al Franken, who resigned after sexual misconduct allegations. She will become the 22nd woman to serve in the current U.S. Senate body, which is a new milestone.

President Trump just met with GOP House and Senate leaders, along with top White House aides at Camp David. Louisiana's Representative Steve Scalise, the House majority whip, attended the conference. Their 2018 agenda was the reason for the meeting. On Saturday, January 6th, President Trump declared that he will not sign any legislation on DACA unless Congress agrees to funding the border wall described above. President Trump wants a complete overhaul of the "legal" immigration system including scrapping of chain immigration. President Trump ended the Obama-era DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program in October of 2017. He has given Congress until March of

2018 to find a fix for this program.

President Trump had many accomplishments in his 1st year of office. Here are five of the most important things he has accomplished so far into his presidency:

Under President Trump, the U.S. military has overseen a major victory against ISIS. His generals have put into place a strategy that has worked tremendously. In December, the Iraqi Prime Minister declared victory after the fall of the ISIS caliphate in his country, with the aid of an American-led coalition. In his first year in office, President Trump set a record for the amount of judges he has appointed to federal appeals courts nationwide. There have been 12 circuit judges confirmed, which is the most in the 1st year of any president in the 228 year history of this country. Of course, his very first Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, was a great accomplishment. President Trump's tax reform bill is one of his most important pieces of legislation to be passed. It addressed many of his campaign issues that included tax reform, stimulating the economy, and growing the job market. The tax bill included the repeal of the "Obamacare" individual mandate which means Americans will no longer have to pay a penalty for not signing up for health insurance. The Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of allowing President Trump's travel ban to take effect which was another big win for his agenda.

Patti Carter

"There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: as government expands, liberty contracts."

-Ronald Reagan

Scenes from the LAGOP Elephant Gala honoring US Congressman, Steve Scalise



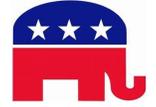
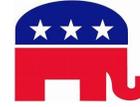
Pat Soulier and Cindy Dore



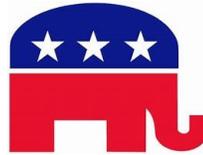
*Dr. Craig Greene, District 2
Public Service Commissioner
and Pat Soulier*



Peggy Buckels and Pat Soulier

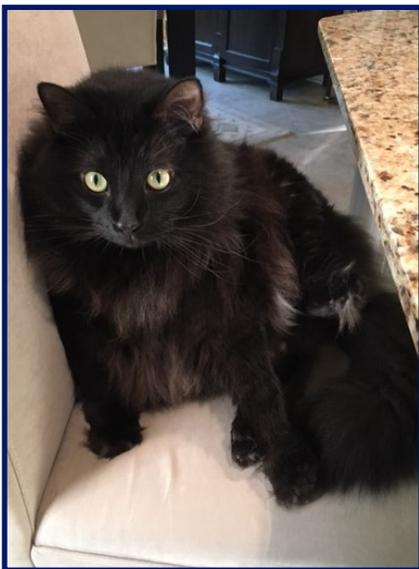


*Members...Please send
in your newsletter
ideas to the editor @
jjrobert@cox.net.*



"I DIDN'T DO IT!!" Look at this cute innocent face!! This is Fargo, a 6 year old 22 pound Maine Coon/Chantilly mix and he is constantly pinning down his little sister, Sophia and making her squeal. He's trying to look innocent here, but he was just being bad moments before this photo.

Owner: Jennifer Robert



Member Pet-of-the-Month

This year, the executive board would like to add something new to the newsletter ... **Member Pet of the Month.** Please submit a picture of your pet (cat, dog, ferret, horse, parrot, tarantula, etc.) and a descriptive paragraph to the newsletter editor @ jjrobert@cox.net and the executive board will pick one for each newsletter.

**Let's get those cameras/
cellphones out
and get those pets
posing!!!**

2018 ARW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

AWARDS	PATRICIA SOULIER
BY-LAWS/STANDING RULES	HELEN GRANGER
CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	JUDY AMES
FUNDRAISING	<i>Looking for Chair</i> DEE NOLAN IS DOOR PRIZE CHAIR
COMMUNITY SERVICE	PEGGY BUCKELS
LEGISLATIVE	PATTI CARTER
MAMIE EISENHOWER AND EDUCATION/LITERACY	HELEN GRANGER
MEMBERSHIP	URSULA ANDERSON
PROGRAM	MARSHA VINING
PUBLICITY/PR	<i>Looking for Chair</i>
ARMED FORCES	<i>Looking for Chair</i>
TECHNOLOGY	JENNIFER ROBERT
SCHOLARSHIP	MARSHA VINING
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	JENNIFER ROBERT
CALL COMMITTEE	MAY HEATHERLY
SCRAPBOOK	SARAH BILLEAUD
CHAPLAIN	ANITA JOHNSON
PARLIAMENTARIAN	HELEN GRANGER
VOLUNTEER HOURS/RECORDING	MARIAN LAUGHLIN

***Some committees are still looking for Chairs and all Committees are looking for volunteers.
See what committee you would like to be on.***



Marsha Vining

Real Estate Advisor for Engel & Völkers Lafayette

As an Engel & Völkers Advisor, I am committed to delivering the highest level of service by offering world class marketing and advertising tools, and EXCLUSIVE attention to the needs of my clients. The Lafayette market is complex, fast moving and constantly changing. You deserve a realtor who is involved in our community and stays informed about our local government, economy and our unique real estate market. **Contact me and we can get your home sold!** Check out my website at marshavining.evusa.com



12" x 12" Cracked Oyster Shell Louisiana

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Joie de Vivre Design, LLC

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(337) 278-5127

Owner: Jennifer Robert

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