

BAYOU LACOMBE REPUBLICAN WOMEN



FEBRUARY 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

MEMBERS,

I AM SURE YOU ARE LIKE ME AND LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING AFTER THE HARSH COLD TEMPERATURES WE HAVE HAD. I PRAY NONE OF YOU OR ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY ARE DEALING WITH THE FLU! THIS YEAR STARTED WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY OUR PRESIDENT. IN SPITE OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE BY PRESIDENT TRUMP, THERE IS CONTINUED DIVISIVENESS FROM THE DEMOCRATS AND LIBERAL MEDIA. WE AS REPUBLICANS MUST STRIVE TO INSTILL AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER AND OUR COMMUNITY TO BE STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE OF OUR PRESIDENT. I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ATTEND OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO PLEASE RENEW YOUR DUES NOW. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR FEBRUARY 27TH MEETING!
MADELON NOHRA

Next Meeting: February 27, 2018.

Location: THE VFW DAVIS MORAN POST 8290, 28000 MAIN STREET, LACOMBE, LA

Hostesses: Mary Kay Hamauei and Ann Gniady

Speaker: To be announced

Business: Discussion of upcoming election and Legislative Session

Future Meetings: March 27, April 24, May 22, no scheduled meetings for June and July, August 28, September 25, October 16(a week early due to the WHA Luncheon on October 23), November 13(two weeks early due to Thanksgiving and December Luncheon), December 4.

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2018.

Please continue reading for more important Club and Election Information.

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CLUB and FEDERATION INFORMATION:

We will be starting a new Community Service initiative to help our local Lacombe CCC Charity. We will be collecting non-perishable food items each month to donate to the Food Bank of which Bakey Hoover is the coordinator.

Lincoln/Reagan Banquet will be March 17, 2018, at the Tchefuncta Country Club. 6:00 Reception, 7:00 Dinner/Program. \$65.00 per person due by March 7. We will be honoring Odette Jennings, nationally recognized advisor of the Teenage Republicans of Slidell, as the St Tammany Republican of the Year.

LFRW Spring Board Meeting will be April 6 & 7, 2018, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 400 Mane Street, West Monroe, LA. Hotel Reservations: 318-398-0653. Reception will be on Friday, Board Meeting on Saturday. More information will be presented at a later date.

POLITICAL INFORMATION:

UPCOMING ELECTIONS:

February 17, 2018 Special Primary

March 24, 2018 Special General/Municipal Primary

In Person/By Mail Registration Deadline: 2/21/18

Geaux Vote Online Registration Deadline: 3/3/18

Request for Mail in Ballot Deadline: 3/20/18

Early Voting: 3/10-3/17/18

April 28, 2018 Municipal General Election

Qualifying Dates: n/a

In Person/By Mail Registration Deadline: 3/28/18

Geaux Vote Online Registration Deadline: 4/7/18

Request for Mail in Ballot Deadline: 4/24/18

Early Voting: 4/14-4/21/18

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TAX RENEWAL UP FOR VOTE-AGAIN

In the March 24, 2018 Special Election, the St. Tammany Parish Council plans to ask voters a third time to approve two 1/5 cent each, 10 year sales taxes for the Parish Courthouse and the Parish Jail. These measures were rejected by voters in April 2016 and again in April 2017. The Parish does not seem to want to respect the will of the voters and reduce spending to adjust for the loss of revenue. If this is a vital as they say, the Parish Council should give a detailed explanation with budget numbers for the past 20 years of cost in maintaining the Courthouse and Jail to justify the need for these taxes. We are one of the most conservative Parishes in the state yet we are one of the most heavily taxed.

STATE BUDGET WOES CONTINUE: Governor John Bel Edwards has called for a Special Session to start at 4:00 pm on February 19th to address the potential 1 billion budget shortfall. The call must be put in seven days in advance of the commencement of a Special Session. The Special Session must end by March 7. The Regular Session starts on March 12, during which lawmakers cannot take up most revenue-raising measures. This is the fifth budget focused special session in two years. Although an agreed upon framework has not been reached, the Governor and state legislators believe this will give them an opportunity to make reforms to stabilize the budget and tax code. Governor Edwards proposed several tax measures to raise revenue but the Republican controlled House wants a mix of budget cuts and revenue-raisers, rather than revenue alone. In the proclamation is the Governors revenue generating measures along with a few Republican ideas that were presented including an enhanced budget transparency website; a new way of calculating the state's spending cap; and co-pays and work requirements for some Medicaid recipients. Republicans also want a clearer picture of the size of the shortfall before agreeing to increase revenue.

The shortfall has to be dealt with and time is running out . The Governor wants the legislature to tell him where to cut expenditures and the Republicans want the Governor to lead. If the Governor's main focus is tax increases, then the Republicans need to step up and present conservative cost saving measures as part of their negotiations with the governor. If the Governor will not lead, the Republicans need to take this opportunity to do so. By the way, these special sessions cost a lot, \$25,000 for the Senate and \$35,000 for the House PER DAY.

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The following is a letter written by State Senator Sharon Hewitt on January 24, 2018 with her encounter with the Governor and her perspective on the situation:

"When I pressed the Governor at the recent Joint Budget meeting for the details to backup his testimony that he had "cut \$600M from the State General Fund (SGF) in the last two years, the Governor quipped, " I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you." Unfazed by his disrespectful comment, I pushed on. Citizens throughout Louisiana deserve an explanation as to why our state's expenditures continue to grow every year while delivering abysmal results. Here are the facts on the SGF budgets that the Governor has misrepresented:

Fiscal Year2016 Actual:	\$8.7B (Jindal's budget)
FY2017 Actual:	\$9.3B (Edwards Year 1)
FY2018 as of 12/1/17:	\$9.5B (Edwards Year 2)
FY2019 Recommended:	\$8.6B (Edwards Proposed Budget Year 3, after penny expires)
FY2019 to fix "the fiscal cliff":	\$9.6B (Edwards preferred funding level)

I understand it perfectly. There is no \$600M cut over the last two years. To the contrary, our expenses increase every year, and are projected to grow over the next 5 years at twice the rate of our revenue growth.

Rather than continuing to act like a victim by saying that this is not the budget he wants to submit, but he has no choice, the Governor of our state should show leadership by pursuing both long-term and short-term solutions to reform our spending practices. His only solution is to raise taxes. He should explain to you why he believes that he is entitled to take more money out of your pocket and spend it on failing programs. Given the fact that Louisiana is among the highest states in per capita spending, while delivering results at the bottom of nearly every list, our Governor should be looking at best practices from other states. He should explain why he is unwilling to roll up his sleeves and require the 30,000 employees in his agencies to do the work to honestly examine our budget and do an apple-to-apple comparison with those states with better results. But I understand....it is easier for the Governor to cop out by challenging individual legislators to tell him exactly where to cut.

While the Federal tax cuts have revved the economic engine around the country, Louisiana will likely miss this wave of prosperity if the Governor continues to implement his own tax and spend philosophy. Governors from states like Florida are licking their chops to steal our businesses. And in this year alone, over 27,000 residents chose to move out of Louisiana in search of greener pastures.

With 20 years of experience as a business executive with the largest company in the world, I understand budgets. But it is clear that the Governor cannot explain it. Let's work together to hold him accountable." said Senator Sharon Hewitt.

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Dale Neale, Col. Rob Maness, Pat Johnson and Ruth Anthon attended the Committal Ceremony for two veterans on January 24th at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.



Dale Neale donating books to Librarian Rhonda Spies at the Lacombe Library on February 7, as part of the LFRW MELP Project.



Madelon Nohra attended the Ribbon cutting ceremony for Camp NORA Veterans Transition Shelter in Waldheim, LA on January 29.

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