# BAYOU LACOMBE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

## MARCH 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

**MEMBERS,**

**HELLO TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS.**
**I TRUST YOU ARE ENJOYING THIS BEAUTIFUL SPRING WEATHER.**
**THE BLRW HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PLANNING THE LINCOLN/REAGAN DAY BANQUET ON MARCH 17TH. U S SEN. JOHN KENNEDY IS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER. HE SHOULD BE INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING.**
**ODETTTE JENNINGS, ADVISOR TO THE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SLIDELL TEEN AGE REPULICANS, HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THE ST. TAMMANY REPUBLICAN OF THE YEAR AND WILL BE PRESENTED HER AWARD AT THE BANQUET.**
**OUR LEGISLATURE MET IN SPECIAL SESSION TO ATTEMPT TO SOLVE OUR STATE'S BUDGET ISSUES. UNFORTUNATELY, NO PROGRESS WAS MADE.**
**THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE IS AWAITING THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE A YOUNG WOMAN AS OUR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT. PLEASE PASS ALONG THE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIP TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MARCH 26.**
**I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR MARCH MEETING 27TH!**

MADELON NOHRA

**Next Meeting: March 27,2018.**

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

**Hostesses:** Ruth Anthon, Jaon Gokey and Pam Jones

**Speaker:** Parish Councilman Jake Groby

**Business:** Discussion of upcoming plans for the Lacombe area.

**Future Meetings:** 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 have started a new Community Service initiative to help our local Lacombe Food Bank. We will be collecting non-perishable food items each month to donate to the Food Bank of which Bakey Hoover is the coordinator. Last month over 150 residents of Lacombe were served. Thank you to those who brought food items to our February Meeting.

The 14th Annual Lincoln/Reagan Banquet will be Saturday, March 17, 2018, at the Tchefuncta Country Club. 6:00 Reception, 7:00-9:00 Dinner/Program. $65.00 per person. RSVP due by March 7 Ticket sales are final. Business Attire Cash Bar
Guest Speaker - US Senator John Kennedy
A tribute to President Abraham Lincoln
by Louisiana Appeal Court Judge Will Crain
Awards presented for:
2018 St. Tammany Parish Republican of the Year :Odette Jennings-nationally recognized advisor of the Teenage Republicans of Slidell
St. Tammany Parish Republicans Distinguished Service Award: Pam and Peter Egan
2018 Washington Parish Republican of the Year: State Senator Beth Mizell

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:**

**March 24, 2018 Special General/Municipal Primary**
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. They have had at least two years to prepare for the end of these taxes when they were rejected in 2016, instead they keep putting the taxes up for another vote. If this is as vital as they say, the Parish Council should be more transparent and give a detailed explanation with budget numbers for the past 10 years of costs in maintaining the Courthouse and Jail to justify the need for these taxes. We are one of the most conservative and fastest growing Parishes in the state, which means more property tax revenue, yet we are one of the most heavily taxed.

STATE BUDGET WOES CONTINUE: What a waste. The Special Session adjourned on Monday, two days ahead of schedule, without a solution to the looming budget gap. The Regular Session will be March 12-June 4, during which lawmakers cannot take up most revenue-raising measures. This is the fifth budget focused special session in two years at a cost of $25,000 for the Senate and $35,00 for the House **PER DAY.** The Legislature may end the Regular session early to take up the budget issue again as it has to be resolved. The Governor called the Special Session without a clear idea of what the two sides would agree on. The size of the shortfall was unclear because the Revenue Estimating Committee does not meet until later this month. The Governor wanted the issue to be resolved before the Regular session. In his Special Session proclamation the Governors had several revenue generating measures along with Republican ideas, as they wanted budget cuts along with taxes rather than revenue raisers alone, 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. What ended up happening was the Republicans wanted budget cuts along with a sales tax, Democrats wanted to eliminate tax breaks and voted against several tax proposals as they did not want the Medicaid restrictions, and the Governor couldn't get the support of his own party let alone the Republicans. The Governor, as much as he would like to blame the Republicans, can only blame himself for the failure.

State Senator Jack Donahue wrote the following shortly before the end of the failed session and it sums up the situation very well.

March 3, 2018

"Wondering why this Special Session is going so poorly?

It really is not difficult to understand, it is the 5 P's-Poor Preparation Provides Poor Performance.

The State knows how much revenue it has to spend because the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) tells us. Since the last time the REC met a lot has happened that affects the state revenue in a positive way, including that the lowering of federal income tax rates will produce about $300 million of new revenue in the state.

The REC has not met yet this year and therefore the amount of money that maybe be available to run the state has not been updated. The governor is still pushing to replace all the revenue lost when the one penny of sales tax expires (almost $1 billion) but, as I said, some good things have happened that causes that billion dollar figure to be substantially lower.

The deficit can be corrected by leaving 1/4 to 1/2 cent of the expiring sales tax in place and a few other minor adjustments, and the problem would be solved.

So why are we fumbling the ball so badly? LACK OF LEADERSHIP.

I just explained how easily this "crisis" can be solved, and there is no reason that something positive should not come out of this Special Session ... but I am not optimistic that it will.

Sincerely,
Jack Donahue"

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Concerned Citizens of St Tammany Representatives Charles Goodwin and General Carl Ernst, Retired spoke at our February 27th meeting.

St Tammany, Washington Parish, and Slidell Teen Republican Club members worked together to prepare invitations for the Lincoln-Reagan Banquet on February 24th.

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# BAYOU LACOMBE REPUBLICAN WOMEN

## MARCH 2018

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