



# The Trumpet

Monthly Newsletter of the Ouachita Parish Women's Republican Club

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## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, April 1

Republicans meet at the West Monroe Convention Center. Lunch buffet opens at 11:30 "Each One Bring One" – invite a guest to join you!

Featured Speaker:

State Treasurer John Schroder



### March 29, 30, 31

Fourteen delegates from OPWRC will attend the LFRW (state convention) in Baton Rouge at Crowne Plaza Hotel

### Monday, April 8

Regular Session of the 2019 Louisiana Legislature convenes @ noon

### Wednesday, April 10

Fundraiser for Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser in Baton Rouge – TBA

### Saturday, April 13

Membership Coffee @ 2509 Pargoud Landing 10 AM "Each one Bring ONE"

### Monday, May 13

Elephant Stomp / Golf & Gala at L'Auberge Hotel in Baton Rouge

## Who's Running – And Who's NOT

Many of our elected officials have been tight-lipped about their political aspirations for the future. Some are still "undecided" about entering fall campaigns for *open* posts. Several officials will be "term-limited" and will not seek new terms for their current seats. Only a few veteran politicians have made announcements; *some are quietly talking it over* in public places. For example, **Senator Neil Riser** has made it known to friends and close associates that he will definitely run for a seat in the House.

After hearing rumbles about veteran officials moving from the Senate to the House, esteemed political commentator, *former Representative Kay Kellogg Katz*, remarked: "That's good news! If those who are now Senators should win positions in the House – just think how strong the House Chamber would become." Their experience will generate strength. There are some real disadvantages when so many experienced officials vacate either chamber of the legislature.

**State Representative John "Jay" Morris III** will seek re-election in District 14, and his colleague, **Representative Jack McFarland**, will run for his current post in District 13. Both men are conservative Republicans.

At least one Republican, **Senator Mike Walsworth** recently announced he will *not* run for a post in Baton Rouge. Instead, he will seek the office of Ouachita Parish Clerk of Court – a post now held by a democrat. At least one other Republican, **LaKeisha Johnson**, who is a local attorney, will also enter that race. Business owner, **Matt Parker** will be vying for the Senate seat in District 35, currently held by Senator Jim Fannin.

Running for the District 33 Senate seat is lifelong Republican, **Stewart Cathey, Jr.** who is a small business owner, civic leader, and U.S. Army combat veteran.

Term-limited **State Representative Frank Hoffmann** indicated he will not run for the Senate seat in District 33 as some expected he would. This leaves both the Senate seat for District 33 and the Representative seat for District 15 vacant. West Monroe educator and a Republican, **Ryan Reed**, has announced his run for the House position in District 15.

# During MARCH . . . Ouachita Parish Police Jury Forum



Republican members of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury discussed current issues with our group on Monday, March 4 at West Monroe Convention Center lunch meeting. Pictured Left to Right are **Walt Caldwell, Shane Smiley, Scotty Robinson, and Jack Clampit.**

The slated nominees for LFRW offices visited with the official delegates of OPWRC who will represent us at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention. Pictured from left to right are Sherra Fertitta, Katrina Summers, Dianne Abraham, Mickey Jackson, JoAnn Parker, Peggy Buckles, and Verda Gates. Also visiting with our club delegates was Heidi Martin who is Treasurer of LFRW.



The voting delegates are certified by the state group. The number of certified representatives per club is based on the membership numbers. Ouachita Parish Women's Republican Club was allocated 14 delegates. We are excited to have filled all 14 slots. Among those elected by our club to serve as *official delegates* are: Dianne Abraham, Tammy Brown, Misti Cordell, Nannette Flowers, Verda Gates, Mickey Jackson, Kay Kellogg Katz, Janet Knott, Joanna Massey, Charlotte Nugent, Maydra Pomeroy, Betsy Trapp, Sondra White, and Regina Wilson.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention of Louisiana Federation of Republican Women will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge on March 29, 30, and 31.



**NEWS ALERT:** President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania planned to enjoy a marvelous weekend at their resort home in southern Florida. The President deserved an opportunity to celebrate the conclusion of the Mueller Investigation (the Witch Hunt) that made headlines on Friday, March 22. "There will be no further indictments" according to reports from FOX NEWS CHANNEL on Friday evening.

After two years of harassment from Democrats and the liberal media, there is good reason for conservatives to rejoice. They should be dancing in the halls of Congress after 22 months of investigation revealed no proof of collusion with Russia by the Trump campaign. What became quite clear to observers was that a greater injustice occurred as the United States Justice Department failed to investigate Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama for their abuses of power.

## *"Each ONE, Bring ONE" Membership Coffee*

You are invited to join us for a casual brunch  
in the home of Amanda and Jim Barry  
2509 Pargoud Landing in Monroe, Louisiana  
Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 AM



## HELP RAISE the AMERICAN FLAG

Over a year ago Stuart Hodnett, Coordinator of Ouachita Green, spoke with the Ouachita Parish Women's Republican Club about a beautification project at the intersection of Stella and Mill Streets in West Monroe. Jayme Watson reported to us that Blue Mothers had paid over one thousand dollars to erect a marker honoring veterans from all branches of the military forces at this site. Originally the site was landscaped by a garden club. However, many years later, the vegetation was in poor condition and the landscape needed to be replanted. Ouachita Green provided resources for the landscaping project.

Hodnett proposed to create a patriotic venue for this space situated in a prominent location as motorists enter the city from the Louisville Bridge or from the I-20 corridor. Kathy Ray and Mickey Jackson were invited to a meeting with West Monroe City

planning officials and others interested in the project. Both have been dedicated supporters of the project.

The OPWRC Executive Board voted to donate \$200 for the purchase of 4' x 6' all-weather American flag to be lighted at night. The City of West Monroe will provide the electrical connection and maintain the lighting. The landscaping is completed; however, the funding was not sufficient to erect the expensive flag pole. The cost for that pole is \$2,300 and Hodnett is now dependent upon donations to provide that amount.

The OPWRC is an organization that promotes PATRIOTISM and RESPECT FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG. With that being said – Mickey Jackson has donated 25 stainless steel thermal coffee cups with the popular GOP elephant decal on one side of the cup. She plans to give a cup to any person who makes a \$20 donation toward RAISING THE AMERICAN FLAG Project. The goal is to contribute at least \$500 toward the flagpole.



The cups will be available at the next meeting on Monday, April 1. Contributions can be made at a special table. Checks should be made payable to: OUACHITA GREEN. Please note "Flagpole Project" on the memo line of your check. Your donations are tax deductible as Ouachita Green is a non-profit group.

## SPECIAL REPORT *from Sherra Fertitta*

Note: on Wednesday, March 20, Congressman Ralph Abraham was a guest of Michael Echols' weekly radio talk show. Sherra, a retired teacher, was particularly interested to hear Abraham's responses to questions concerning the Teacher Retirement System. Abraham's remarks are



*Echols @ Eight*

**ON WEDNESDAYS  
TALK RADIO SHOW**

**Congressman Ralph Abraham** believes that Louisiana teachers should have been given a raise long ago, but the \$1,000 raise now proposed is almost an *insult* when broken down after taxes. Teachers deserve more. He does not, however, believe it should be based on money the legislature has not recognized as actually existing.

Regarding the argument for the elimination of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall elimination provisions – Congressman Abraham is a cosponsor of H.R. 141, the Social Security Fairness Act, which repeals both.

When asked his stance on the Industrial Tax Exemption Program to draw business and industry to our state, Abraham said he would reverse Edwards' decision to scale back business tax breaks and his regulatory approach to government. He added that businesses have been chased out of Louisiana to Texas. The loss is not only state income from those businesses, but also, the loss of income for all businesses providing goods and services to them.

## FLAG SETTING SLATED FOR FRIDAY, MAY 24

### STEWART CATHEY TO ORGANIZE EVENT

Unless you have participated in setting American flags on the graves of those who interrupted their lives in order to protect this nation and its citizens, then you simply cannot imagine the emotional impact. OPWRC members pay tribute to veterans in many of our club activities but placing flags on the graves is special.

Last year, club members placed 12"x24" flags on approximately 230 graves in the NEW Northeast Louisiana Veterans' Cemetery just south of Rayville.

**Retired Major Stewart Cathey**, long-time Associate Member of OPWRC, led the event for us on the Friday before Memorial Day. He will coordinate arrangements for flag setting again this spring. At our last regular meeting, Cathey updated members on his plans. He reported "There are an additional 200 graves since last May, so we will need more flags. The caretakers at the Cemetery are appreciative of this tribute to all veterans.

They take up these flags and store them for use on other patriotic holidays." OPWRC will purchase 200 additional flags for this important project.



**MEMORIAL DAY**

REMEMBER  
AND HONOR

USA

