

# The Trumpet

The Monthly Newsletter of the Ouachita Parish Women's Republican Club

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LFRW : [www.lfrw.org/opwrc](http://www.lfrw.org/opwrc)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

### OPWRC Regular Meeting

Monday, February 4  
West Monroe Convention Center  
Buffet Line Opens at 11:30 AM  
The meeting begins at 12:00 noon

### Forum of SPEAKERS:

Senator Neil Riser  
Senator Mike Walsworth  
Representative Frank Hoffmann  
Representative Jack McFarland  
Representative Jay Morris

### Monday February 19

Senator John Kennedy will speak at  
Noon at the Monroe Civic Center  
For lunch reservations contact the  
Monroe Chamber of Commerce,  
Daphne Garrett (318)807-4018

### Monday February 19

Ouachita Parish Police Jury meets at  
5:30 PM in the Parish Courthouse.

Please Remember to bring paper  
products for the Homeless Shelter.

Kathy Ray will collect them.



## Ralph Abraham Accepts The Next *Challenge* - His Campaign for Governor

**Let the campaign begin!** U.S. Congressman Ralph Abraham, M.D. and Associate Member of OPWRC, currently represents the Fifth District in the House of Representatives. He will run for Governor of Louisiana. The Congressman is well known to us as the country boy who welcomed the *challenge* of attending LSU in Baton Rouge to become a veterinarian. Ralph earned his degree and married Dianne Johnston, his high school sweetheart. The couple returned to Alto to raise their family. She taught school while he honed his business skills in farming and veterinarian practice. They were active in church and community activities.



Ten years later – Dr. Abraham rose to the *challenge* posed by rural communities without doctors. He enrolled in the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport to earn a Medical Degree in Family Practice. He and Dianne established his clinic in Mangham – only 6 miles from Alto. Abraham was a First Lieutenant with the 20<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division of the Army National Guard from 1986-1989. Along the way he became a certified flight trainer. He still volunteers to fly missions for Civil Air Patrol and Pilots for Patients.

With the support of his devoted wife and three grown children, he faced another *challenge* when he ran for Congress in 2014. He was elected. Then, voters re-elected him for a third term in 2018. Once in Washington, he became a rising star in the state and national political arena. People saw that he is an authentic, humble, and astute problem-solver. His leadership skills were shaped as a physician, veterinarian, business owner, farmer, pilot and during military service.

U.S. Congressman Ralph Abraham quickly grasps fundamental issues and proves to be effective in governing. He understands the different functions of government including foreign relations, defense systems, budgets, and domestic issues. Abraham conveys his opinions with clarity and confidence; thus, he earned the respect of his colleagues and voters. He has faced challenges and won. Ralph Abraham is well prepared for the tough *challenges* he will tackle as Governor of Louisiana.

Congressman Abraham commented: "I'm thrilled about the team we've put together . . . We are excited about what the next year holds." John Vick will serve as Campaign Manager. Vick previously worked on the run-off campaign for Senator John Kennedy and Political Director for the Virginia Republican Party. Political Director will be Courtney Alexander who served in the campaign of Senator Bill Cassidy.

# January 2019 – Here's What Happened!



## Mayor Staci Mitchell Updates Republican Women on City of West Monroe Developments

If you want the job done – call on a woman! That is, a Republican woman who has the work ethic and the organizational skills of Staci Mitchell. Members were absolutely delighted at the progress report she gave at the January meeting. Her update included an impressive list of projects which are in the works: policy changes in trash pick-up, improved drainage, recycling program, signage improvements, plans for economic development in several areas of town; new personnel, and her Town Hall meetings. Former Mayor Bert Hatten rose to congratulate the new mayor. “This is the RIGHT TIME in history for Donald Trump to be President and it’s the RIGHT TIME for Staci Albritton Mitchell to be the Mayor of West Monroe.” She received a standing ovation after giving an absorbing presentation.

We had a great attendance at the first meeting in 2019. President Mickey Jackson welcomed newcomers to OPWRC and urged everyone to pay their dues soon. The membership dues are being collected during the first quarter. With so many members- Kenda Reed, Treasurer has a huge job. Let's help her!

Past President Verda Gates was assisted by Beth Correro as they conducted a memorial ceremony for five members who died in 2018 and one associate member.

We were especially pleased to have our own Washington connection at home. Dianne Abraham attended and confirmed to us that Ralph is a candidate for Governor.

Volunteers will be required to get our Republican candidate elected. Ralph Abraham need hundreds of Republican women from across this state to volunteer in his campaign. We will have more information very soon.



*We will remember.*

**Betty Fleener**

**Greta Jones**

**Jibby Fox Morton**

**Opal Pelanowski**

**Gilda Willard**

**Jiles Davis**



## Kay Katz Attends NFRW Regional Meeting



Representing OPWRC at the National Federation of Republican Women Regional Meeting was Kay Kellogg Katz who is a past president of our club. She is pictured at left with Jody Rushton, the current National President of Republican Women. “Come Get All JAZZED UP” was the theme of the NFRW Regional Conference. Kay reported on the excellent workshops conducted during the event. Among those which she attended were: The Opioid Crisis is EVERYWHERE! led by Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry; Human Trafficking presented by FBI Agent Lenny Corollo; Millennials: How to Attract AND Keep Them led by NFRW Recording Secretary Frances Taylor; and Event Planning and Fundraising presented by members of the NFRW staff. Following a day of meeting, the women were invited to a beautiful reception at “MardiWorld” – this is a huge facility where floats are manufactured for the Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans and other cities in the south.

## Southern Republican Leadership Conference in New Orleans



Held in New Orleans on January 18-19, the theme of the Southern Republican Leadership Conference was “Louisiana Lagniappe”. Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser served as welcomed visitors to the state. Three members and one associate from OPWRC attended the conference. They included Donna and Stewart Cathey, Dianne Abraham, and Kay Kellogg Katz. Pictured below, Kay is with Congressman Steve Scalise who received a standing ovation as he concluded his address to the crowd of staunch Republicans.

Also speaking at the Leadership conclave was Congressman Ralph Abraham who gave an encouraging forecast for the future of the Republican Party across the nation. Third Party voters are more likely to support Donald Trump due to the economic progress that he has made.



Abraham serves on the House Armed Services Committee, a post he has used to advocate for America’s men and women who serve in our military. He also sits on the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology which focuses on enhancing America’s cybersecurity capabilities. The latter is essential to securing the safety of our borders. His third committee assignment is Agriculture which he understands based upon his firsthand experiences as a farmer in Franklin Parish. He grew up on a farm and knows the hard work required of farmers.

Other inspiring Republican leaders who spoke during the Regional Conference were Attorney General Jeff Landry and the former Senator Elbert Guillory. Roger Villere and Phil Capitano coordinated the informative meeting. The prevailing message from all the speakers was “We must continue to grow the number of registered Republicans in all states.”

[Nationwide the greatest challenge for the Republican Party is attracting more members.](#)



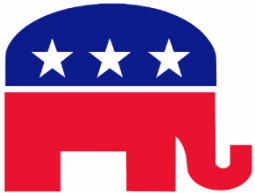
SENATOR JOHN KENNEDY TO SPEAK  
Make YOUR Reservations to Attend  
Monroe Chamber Lunch Meeting

Monday, February 19, 2019

(318) 807- 4018 Ask for Daphne Garrett



On Monday, February 19, the distinguished Senator John Kennedy will be in Monroe to update his constituents on national issues currently being addressed in Washington. This event will be informative and entertaining as well. The junior Senator goes full throttle in his battle to offer common sense solutions to the complex problems confounding many legislators at the national level of government. Kennedy is quick with the quip, but he takes the business of government seriously. His opinions are frequently captured by television cameras, thus his popularity among conservatives continues to spread. Although he considered a race to unseat Jon Bel Edwards, Kennedy recently declared that *he will not run* for Governor this fall.



**Louisiana Federation of Republican Women**

**National Federation of Republican Women**



**History Lesson:** The National Federation of Republican Women was organized in 1938. In 1953, Catherine Vellermin established a statewide organization of Republican women in separate clubs which emerged across Louisiana in response to the campaign of General Dwight Eisenhower who ran for President as a Republican. The founder of LFRW, Vellermin also served as the first state president of that group. Since 1953, LFRW has grown to include 39 clubs and thousands of Republican women. Ouachita Parish has the largest club in the state. LFRW is affiliated with the National Federation of Republican Women. The vast membership generates tremendous support for the Republican Party.

Locally our club was established in 1953 with only 12 members. **Mary Louise Snellings** served as the first president of the Ouachita chapter. She was one of the first Republicans ever elected to the Ouachita Parish School Board and she served as President of that public body. Two other Republican women from Monroe were elected *President of the LFRW*. They were **Jessie “Jibby” Morton Fox and Greta Jones**. Two of our club members, **Kay Kellogg Katz and Ruth Ulrich**, each served on the national level as *Committee Chair Woman for the RNC*. Membership Matters! We are making a difference in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana and in our nation.

The purposes of LFRW, NFRW, and Ouachita Parish Women’s Republican Club are the same. The three organizations work to inform the public about governmental issues through education, programs, and initiatives. Locally, we develop activities that promote, support and preserve *the conservative ideals and principles of the Republican Party at all levels of government*. Thus, we support candidates who are registered as Republicans.

Without some coordination between the Republican Party and the efforts of local groups, individuals might take conflicting actions in their support of conservative ideals. For example, the By-laws of national, state, and local chapters clearly restrict a Republican Club from supporting any candidate who is not a registered Republican.