



# The Trumpet

JULY 2019

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## OPWRC MEETING is:

**MONDAY, JULY 1**

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser



Matt Parker – Candidate for Senate  
in District 35



Drake Graves – Candidate for State  
Representative, District 15



## Patriots in the Park Energizes Republicans

Sponsored by the Ouachita Parish Women's Republican Club, Patriots in the Park drew an impressive crowd on Saturday, June 8 in the beautiful Forsythe Park. **Donna Cathey** produced an epic success as she chaired this fourth annual project. Energized by the cooler weather, OPWRC members, candidates, and guests celebrated amid the colorful tents erected on the sprawling front lawn of the American Legion Hall at Post 13. The scene was classic Americana with high flying flags lining the pathway to the colonial edifice. Folks donned patriotic apparel, summer hats, and sunshades. Many brought lawn chairs to settle beneath enormous white tents provided by **Matt Parker**, candidate for Senate 35.



**Verda Gates** and volunteers, **Rylee Daniel** and **Luke Foster**, delighted the youngsters at the Kids' Corner which featured bubbles, balloons, and fake tattoos. The reigning Miss Teen Louisiana, **Chanley Patterson**, who will soon compete for the national title in Orlando, performed "*The Star-Spangled Banner*" a cappella to open the ceremonies. The annual event saluted the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day which was June 6, 2019. The musical selections were nostalgic reminders of the 1940s era when patriotism soared as Americans supported troops fighting in foreign lands to preserve freedom. **The Alto Trio**, comprised of **Kim Weed**, **Tiffany Remore** and **Katie Prewitt**, performed songs from the late 40s era. The strands from *Don't Sit Under the Appletree* were a crowd pleaser. These popular ladies gave a simply marvelous performance. (See page 2 for More Patriots in the Park.)



**Nell Calloway**, founder and President of Chennault Aviation and Military Museum, gave a moving account of the sacrifices made by those who fought with the Allied Forces during World War II. The museum director reminded us “Many veterans still return home from the battlefield with serious physical and mental problems.” Nell encouraged members of the audience to support various programs available through the museum.

The highlight of the morning was “stumping” by candidates who helped sponsor the festivities. Candidates who rose to the steps of the American Legion Hall to introduce themselves and pitch their qualifications in only 3-minutes were: **LaKeisha Johnson, Mike Walsworth** (candidates for Clerk of Court); **Michael Echols** (candidate for State Representative); **Foy Gadberry, Drake Graves** (candidates for State Representative); **Glen Womack**, (candidate for Senator in District 32); and **Wade Bishop, Stewart Cathey, Jr.** (candidates for Senator in District 33); **Jim Fannin, Matt Parker** (candidates for Senator in District 35); **Barry White** spoke on behalf of **Tim Temple** (candidate for Insurance Commissioner) and **Aaron Patrick** offered greetings from **Eddie Rispone** who is running for Governor. The final speaker, **Congressman Ralph Abraham** (candidate for Governor) made an unexpected appearance to the delight of the crowd.



Closing the program was **Kay Kellogg Katz** who reminded everyone of the impact that a governor exerts upon the 2020 Census and that the re-districting of legislative boundaries depends upon the Census. The retired State Representative Katz thanked the candidates for participating in the election process before she offered the benediction.

Patriots in the Park saluted our VETERANS from all branches of military services. Residents from the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home were invited to enjoy lunch compliments of OPWRC.

**Johnny Willard**, a 94-year-old World War II veteran who served in the Navy, received a special tribute. At only 18, he enlisted in the Navy to serve as an armed guard for merchant marines who were carrying fuel to the front lines. **Luke Letlow**, (center in photo at top right) who serves as Chief of Staff for Congressman **Ralph Abraham**, presented Mr. Johnny with a flag which was flown over the U. S. Capitol.



Scores of volunteers worked together to support this tremendous activity. When the weather became uncertain, **Matt Parker** loaned us the large white tents shown in the photo at right. He and volunteers from Richland Parish arrived the day before and erected these tents during the rain. They were literally soaked. Matt also provided our sound system. Thanks, Matt. **Drake Graves**, along with his talented family, provided beautiful, patriotic decorations for the event. **Stewart Cathey, Jr.** provided cool beverages both outside and during lunch. Serving on the decorating, food, and other committees were **Joanie Graves, Sherry DeMoss, Natalie DeMoss-Hebert, LaNell Armstrong, Margaret Horne, Beth Correro, Charlotte Moore, Jan McDonald, Lorie Moorhead, Amy Kincannon, Nora Parker, JoAnn Womack, Gayle Baldree, Sheri Allen, Pamela Cason, Sue Crowe, Cecilia Francescon, Verda Gates, Charlotte Nugent, Tammy Brown and Sherry Reed.** Thanks to many others who are not mentioned. Everyone pitched in and made this celebration the biggest and best ever!!!

# Highlights from OPWRC Meetings

## May – State Representative Jane Smith (ret.)



### Key Remarks:

- The population of Louisiana has decreased over ten years.
- The number of U.S. Representatives is based on population.
- Every person MUST be counted in 2020.
- Louisiana now has 6 Representatives in the House.
- The state could possibly lose a Representative.
- After 2020 the boundary lines for voting districts are redrawn.
- The political agenda of the governor impacts redistricting.
- Louisiana needs to elect a Republican Governor for 2020.

## May – Eddie Rispone, Candidate for Governor



### Key Remarks:

- Worked his way through college to become the co-founder of a multi-million-dollar corporation that employs over 3,000 workers.
- Financed pro-voucher commercials and strongly supported job skills training at McNeese State University.
- Disapproves of John Bel Edwards' handling of the Industrial Tax Exemption Program.
- Asserts the Governor has created a negative business climate and killed job opportunities for the skilled workforce in the state.
- Believes he knows what it takes to create good paying jobs.
- Believes good paying jobs will decrease the need for Medicaid expansion. He opposes flagrant abuses within the Medicaid Program .

## June – Kyle Ardoin, Secretary of State



### Key Remarks:

- Will seek re-election on October 12, 2019;
- Understands the voting process and what is required to keep the system pure and free from corruption;
- Plans are currently in place to prevent the unlawful registration of illegal immigrants;
- Will stand against legislation to permit imprisoned felons from voting in elections prior to serving their complete term;
- Will implement advanced security measures to protect the votes of the legal registered voters of Louisiana.

# Kay Kellogg Katz Elected Delegate To the NFRW National Convention

Four OPWRC members attended the Spring Board Meeting for LFRW held in Baton Rouge on May 30-31 at the Embassy Suites. Mickey Jackson, President, along with Maydra Pomeroy, Regina Wilson, and Kay Kellogg Katz represented our club as new LFRW President Wanda Aizpurua presided over her first official meeting of the Board. Nearly every club in Louisiana had representation. The business meeting was well organized with pertinent information provided.



The morning session included a Presidents' meeting followed by a Technology Workshop led by Carita Wilson who serves as Webmaster for the Louisiana Federation of Republican Women. During the afternoon Business Session, nominations were accepted and 7 delegates were elected to attend the National Convention of NFRW in Indianapolis in



September. **Kay Kellogg Katz**, a past-president for multiple terms, was nominated by Mickey Jackson. The Board Members, State Officers and Club Presidents voted by secret ballot. Kay's name was the second one to be called. We were so excited for Kay since she and her daughter, **Kris Coons** (an associate member) were planning to attend the biennial convention this fall. Kris is President of her local chapter in San Antonio. Congrats to Kay on her election as a Louisiana Delegate.

Another surprise occurred before the meeting was adjourned. Past-president **Gena Gore** presented LFRW Awards to the presidents of clubs which earned recognition based on programs of work for 2017 and 2018. Ouachita Parish received fourteen First Place Awards. **Kenda Reed** was awarded the Betty Heitman Award for Leadership and **Greta Jones (deceased)** was honored for her Lifetime

Achievement as an outstanding Republican Woman. (Pictured at left are Gena Gore, Mickey Jackson, and Wanda Aizpurua, President of LFRW.)

## OPENING of Republican Headquarters – July 1 at 3:00 PM

The campaign season is upon us! WE MUST SUPPORT OUR REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES. The Ouachita Parish Women's Republican Club will be volunteering to assist candidates by registering more Republican voters in the districts where they are running; and, offering hands-on assistance with special events such as manning booths at festivals.

**Our mission is to get MORE Republican voters to the polls on October 12 in order to elect Republican candidates.** The club does not endorse ONE Republican candidate over another Republican candidate. Let us also **remember** that our current governor ran as a "conservative". By definition, the independent is not committed to the core values of the GOP. There is no such thing as an "independent conservative." In Congress, independents lean to the left and they caucus with liberals. Republicans fervently support the platform of the Republican Party. OPWRC exists to elect Republicans to local and state offices.

**Lori Moorhead has been recruited to serve as the COORDINATOR of our REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS. She is an experienced campaign volunteer and competent supervisor of work details. We are so grateful for Lori's willingness to accept this huge task on behalf of OPWRC. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to work in the HEADQUARTERS. WE ARE ASKING members to volunteer at least 2 hours per week. Call any officer and tell them which day of the week and what hours you are willing to commit to this campaign. We will be calling YOU!**

As always the Ouachita Parish Republican Women have multiple projects underway. A recent example, we helped erect a beautiful American Flag at the patriotic site on the boulevard at the intersection of Mill and Stella Streets in West Monroe. The flagpole is lighted and the landscaping is lovely. The garden prominently features a marker established by the Blue Star Mothers and a local garden club decades ago.

However, the vegetation was overgrown. Ouachita Green Project Director, **Stuart Hodnett** coordinated the multi-faceted project which involved many community partners. OPWRC donated \$200 for the start-up phase of the undertaking; and, subsequently, raised another \$500 with a thermal cup sale to help *Raise the FLAG*. Local engineer, **Foy Gadberry**, learned about the project at our March meeting. He volunteered his professional services to make it happen. We are so grateful to **Stuart Hodnett** and **Mayor Staci Mitchell** – who both worked diligently to complete this project. On July 3, at 9:00 A.M. there will be a ceremony as the AMERICAN FLAG is raised. The public is invited to attend.