



Lady Republican

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA



Erin Bendily, Ph.D

Vice President for Policy & Strategy, Pelican Institute



Erin Bendily leads policy and strategy for the Pelican Institute for Public Policy, Louisiana's leading free-market think tank. Pelican exists to advance human flourishing across Louisiana by advancing new ideas, offering solutions to problems, and removing barriers to opportunity.

Erin has worked in education policy for approximately 20 years, advocating for students from early childhood through higher education, administering education programs, and offering policy solutions designed to help students reach their full potential and achieve economic opportunity that will benefit them and our beloved State of Louisiana.

Prior to joining Pelican, Erin led the Louisiana chapter of Propel America, a non-profit organization that trains and supports young adults as they transition from high school to careers. She also served as the Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs at the Louisiana Department of Education, where she led the agency's policy agenda and served as a liaison and spokesperson to state and federal elected officials and other government agencies. A significant part of that work involved expanding educational options, accelerating improvement in student achievement, and preparing students for post-secondary education and the workplace.

Erin served as education policy advisor to Governor Bobby Jindal from 2008-2010. Prior to his gubernatorial administration, she served as deputy director for then Congressman Jindal's congressional district office after having supported university research projects and co-advised the statewide network of student government associations at the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Erin earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Southeastern Louisiana University, a master's degree in public administration from Louisiana State University, and Ph.D. in educational leadership and research from LSU. She, her husband, and their son live in Baton Rouge.

Join us for Lunch

Thursday, March 28, 2024
Buffet Lunch: 11am
Meeting: 11:30am

Lake Charles Country Club
3350 Country Club Dr.

RSVP by noon
Tuesday, March 26
ibdoucet@gmail.com

2024 Officers

President

Mary "Sister" Fontenot

1st Vice-President

Mary Kaye Eason

2nd Vice-President

Terri Doucet

Treasurer

Jonell Wilkinson

Recording Secretary

Darla Lennox

Corresponding Secretary

Kay Stephens

Announcements & Events

**Tuesday, March 19,
4:30-7:30pm**

VOTE Congressional District
Caucus & State Convention
Delegates. Bodega, 3505
Country Club Rd.

Tuesday, March 26, Noon
RSVP lunch meeting deadline

Thursday, March 28, 11am
Monthly luncheon meeting
With Erin Bendily, Ph.D

Saturday, March 23
Presidential Preference
& Municipal Primary Election

City Council Meetings
Wednesdays, March 6 & 20
5:30pm, City Council
Chambers, 326 Pujos St.

Police Jury Meetings
Thursdays, March 7 & 21
5:30pm, 1015 Pithon St.

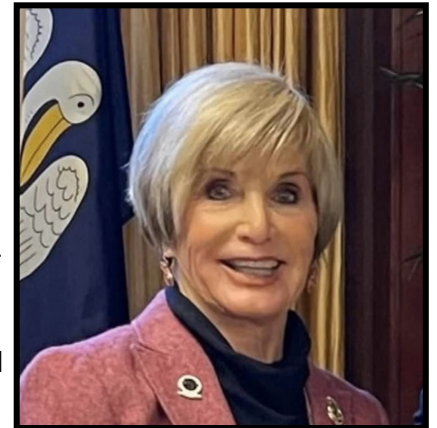
**LFRW Spring Member
Conference & Board Meeting**
Will be held May 31-June 1 in
Baton Rouge.

Marie Key Martin Scholarship
Scholarship application is due
Friday, April 5. Application form
attached to newsletter email.

Message from our President, Sister

Dear Republican Women of SWLA,

What a great time to be a Republican! We have a new Republican Governor, control of both the House and the Senate; and for the first time we have more registered voters than any other Party in the State! Our Club is growing rapidly; and thanks to you, we remain the largest Club in Louisiana! I encourage those who have not renewed to do so, and I hope all of you will encourage your friends and neighbors to join our Club. We are off to a great start with excellent speakers, and have an outstanding lineup for you this year. I am running to be a Delegate to the Republican National Convention along with Roby Dyer, who is running as an Alternate. We would appreciate you going to The Bodega (bringing your Republican friends and relatives) from 4:30pm - 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 19 to cast your vote for us! We are the only two running from Calcasieu Parish, our Parish needs representation! After voting, please stay and visit while patronizing Larry's wine bar, The Bodega! Let's make it a fun event! We will be opening up a Presidential Campaign Headquarters in September and need a location for this event. Please help us find a place for this activity which will run through the first week in November! Our Club Members always enjoy working at the Campaign Headquarters, and we look forward to having all of you participate in electing a Republican President. Our country cannot afford the disastrous Democratic leadership we have had the past four years. We need ALL OF YOU to HELP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! Last, but not least, thank you Emily Fenet Parker for accepting the position of our Newsletter Publisher! You are off to a great start with your first edition!!



Marie Key Martin Scholarship

In honor of Marie Key Martin, every Spring our club awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving young Republican woman. To apply, she must be a senior in high school and nominated by an active member of Republican Women of SWLA.

Sound like someone you know?

**Application attached & must be submitted to Kay Nelson by Friday, April 5.
mskaynelson@aol.com**



REPUBLICAN Women

of Southwest Louisiana

The Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana was chartered in 1990 as an affiliate club of the Louisiana Federation of Republican Women ([LFRW](#)) & the National Federation of Republican Women ([NFRW](#)). Our club centers around Lake Charles, Louisiana and includes cities within the parishes of Calcasieu and Cameron, although members outside this area may join. Our club belongs to Region 3 of the LFRW. Part of our membership dues are sent to the LFRW and, in turn, to the NFRW. Thus, each member of our local club automatically becomes a member of the state & national clubs when we annually send in our membership rolls and dues.

Organization Objectives:

- Promote an informed electorate through political education and activity.
- Increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.
- Foster loyalty to the Republican Party and to promote its principles and ideas.
- Support Republican objectives and policies and work for the election of Republican nominees.

Are You Social? We Are!

Like our Facebook Page

Follow us on Instagram
[@republicanwomenofswla](#)

Follow us on Twitter [@RWofSWLA](#)



Check out our Website!

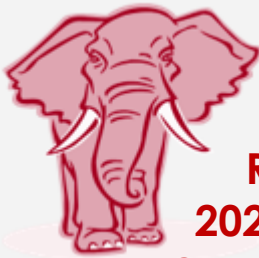
www.rswla.com

LFRW Spring Member Conference & Board Meeting

May 31-June 1, 2024

Baton Rouge, LA

Book your hotel room here [HiltonHotel_LFRW](#)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Remember to renew your membership today.
2024 is a very important election year for our state.
Questions, contact Membership Chair, Teresa Doucet
tbdoucet@gmail.com

Be Passionate. Be Committed.



Spring 2024 Election Dates

Presidential Preference/Municipal Primary Election: Saturday, March 23, 2024

Early voting: Saturday, March 9, 2024 - Saturday, March 16, 2024

8:30am-6pm daily (closed Sunday)

**Republican Presidential Nominee, Republican State Central Committee,
Republican Parish Executive Committee**

****To see your specific ballot go to geauxvote.com or download the
Geaux Vote app**

February's Luncheon

