

OFFICERS

President: Doris Cortese
 1st VP: Rosemary Lewis
 2nd VP: Kerri Tonkin
 Treasurer: Mindy Moran
 Asst. Treas: Chris Quackenbush
 Recording Sec: Marj Tyrer
 Acting Corresponding Sec: Clara Callahan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Americanism: Pat Baldwin
 Achievement Awards: Peg Love
 Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris
 Bylaws/Parliamentarian: Kerri Tonkin
 Campaign/Elections: Kerri Tonkin
 Caring for America: Renie Frank, Anita Diamond
 Fundraising: Rosemary Lewis
 Hospitality: Barb Koeplinger
 Legislative: Jeanne Dozier
 Membership: Sharon Gibson
 Newsletter: Mary Snyder
 Programs: Kerri Tonkin
 Publicity: Gail Langner
 Reservations: Wren Morefield/Mary Ann Hansen
 Social Media: Gail Langner/Tory Renza

NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Chaplain, Judi Royal/Terri Lee
 Historian, Judy O'Donnell
 Photographer, Jessica Armstrong

THE MAHOUT

The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

December 2016

Strong Women for a
Strong America

**The Victory Office
is Now the Lee
Republican Executive
Committee Office!**

Lee Republican Executive Committee Office Hours

Monday - Friday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 7910 Summerlin Lakes Dr., Fort Myers

BETTY PARKER

Betty Parker is a free-lance writer whose political column runs weekly in The News-Press, where she worked as a reporter until retiring six years ago.

A native of South Carolina, she came to Fort Myers to work at the paper after graduating from the University of South Carolina in 1974; winning numerous state and national awards for reporting and writing, including for environmental reporting and international reporting in Haiti, Nicaragua, and elsewhere in Central America and the Caribbean.

She has covered state and local politics since 1985, and for more than 25 years spent at least three months every year in Tallahassee, covering the legislative session for The News-Press and other Gannett papers.

She lives near downtown Fort Myers with her husband and toy poodle.



Betty Parker
Free Lance Writer/Columnist
News Press

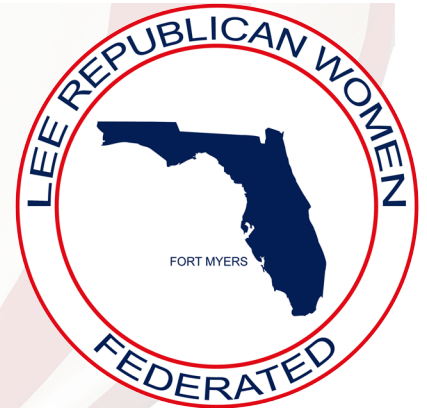
PRISCILLA GRANNIS

Priscilla Grannis is the President of the Women's Republican Club of Naples Federated. She is Chairman of the Membership Committee for the Florida Federation of Republican Women and Vice Chair of the Collier County Republican Executive Committee. Priscilla is also the 3rd Vice President of the Florida Federation of Republican Women.

Priscilla is an attorney specializing in agricultural law. She was a classically trained singer, who performed in operas, concerts and recitals throughout the US and Europe. She also managed her family's small cattle farm in North Florida. Prior to her legal career, she was employed by multi-national corporations as a personnel and human resources manager in both the U.S. and Europe and is fluent in German.



Priscilla Grannis
President WRCNF and
3rd Vice President FFRW



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

- Ronald Reagan

CONGRATULATIONS LRWF!!!

YOU DID IT! The Ladies of LRWF worked so hard that 65 out of 160 members showed up to work at the Victory Office or called, walked or worked from home! Well done "Adorable Deplorables!"

President Elect Trump won by 130,000 votes in Florida, and 65,000 of those votes came from Lee County! **Way to go ladies!!!**

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, December 12th at the beautiful Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers. At this meeting Betty Parker, free lance writer and columnist for the News Press will be speaking and Priscilla Grannis, President of the Women's Republican Club of Naples Federated and 3rd VP FFRW will preside over the installation of officers for 2017.

There are three menu choices:

1. Chicken Marsala
 2. Grilled Salmon with roasted red potatoes, roasted carrots, house salad and rolls
 3. Plain Caesar salad with toppings on the side
- Dessert: Chocolate Mousse

Please remember the deadline for reservations is Thursday, December 8th, at NOON. This is also the deadline for making a cancellation.

- \$25 Inclusive
- 5:15 PM Social Time /Dinner and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 12/8/16 by noon

For reservations: Call Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or email wrenspet@hotmail.com. To make a reservation online go to <https://squareup.com/store/lee-republican-women-federated-2>

Remember, a reservation made is a reservation paid!

Everyone MUST check in at the Reservation Desk.

NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

Associated with the Florida Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Doris Cortese
LRWF President

WOW! Florida voted Republican, Donald Trump, Marco Rubio and Francis Rooney all won. I'm sure you would agree that November was quite a month!

The Federation painted the county deep red as 65 of our members volunteered to make this all happen. Thank you so much for all your hard work during the campaign; you are to be commended.

We are taking back our country and will return it to the God-fearing, constitutional nation it once was.

I am deeply humbled and appreciative to be reelected as your President. We have an awesome two years ahead of us, as a new Governor and U.S. Senate seat are up for bids in 2018. I know we will do our part again.

During this Christmas season, we have much to be thankful for. May God bless all of you and your families. May God bless our Federation, and MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Sincerely,

Doris Cortese
President, Lee Republican Women Federated
Member at Large, Florida Federation of Republican Women



Merry Christmas Ladies

FROM FFRW DISTRICT 7S REPRESENTATIVE CARMEN SALOMÉ

This year the FFRW Fall Conference was held November 11-13 in Altamonte Springs, Florida. With the big win of the Whitehouse this conference atmosphere was filled with celebration and inspiration for a bright future. Our conference speakers included Todd Wilcox, Glo Smith and special guest Karen Giorino, Florida Campaign Director and Special Advisor to President-Elect Trump. Karen thanked the women of the Federation, because as she says "It was the Federation that secured Florida for Donald Trump." The conference included breakout sessions for Club Presidents and Treasurers. There were also sessions on bylaws, membership recruitment, and legislation. The conferences get better each year.

I want to thank all the women in the District 7S counties of Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Collier that worked tirelessly making phone calls, knocking on doors, waiving signs and putting in the long hours to see Florida go **RED**. You are amazing leaders! Rest up and enjoy the holidays!

Carmen Salomé
FFRW District 7S Representative
"Politics is Womens Work"

Named one of Florida's Women to Watch in 2016



Carmen Salomé
FFRW District Representative

DATES FOR 2017 GENERAL MEETINGS

January 9 lunch
February 13 Dinner
March 13 Lunch

April 10 Dinner
May 8 Lunch
June 12 Dinner

July 10 Lunch
August 14 Dinner
September 11 Lunch

October 9 Dinner
November Fashion Show TBA
December 11 Dinner



CALLING ALL BUSINESSES

The Lee Republican Women Federated Club is seeking vendors who would like to advertise their business in our monthly newsletter and be listed on our website. The benefit is that your ad will be distributed monthly to 500 people in our network. The cost of a yearly ad is \$125.00. If interested please contact Rosemary Lewis at 239-284-6477.





CALLING ALL LADIES...EVERYONE IS INVITED!

The book and the meeting place has been decided for our next meeting. We have elected to not meet in December. We will meet on Wednesday, January 4th. Our meeting time will be 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Mel's Diner. Come for lunch and share the elements of a great book. We are going to read, *The Team of Rivals : The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. The book was ten years in the making. It reveals that Lincoln's road to success was longer, more tortuous, and far less likely than other men. Author, Doris Kearns Goodwin, focused on fresh insights into Lincoln's leadership style and his deep understanding of human behavior and motivation. Lincoln's opponents for the Republican nomination of the 1860 election;

William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, and Edward Bates, were chosen to be part of the Lincoln cabinet. These men originally disdained Lincoln for his backwoods upbringing and lack of experience. They were shocked and humiliated at losing to this obscure Illinois lawyer. Lincoln ultimately gained their admiration and respect as well. He turned his rivals into allies and dealt with the many challenges to his leadership, all for the sake of the greater good. The book explains how invaluable these three men were to Lincoln in keeping the nation intact.

Come join us for lunch and good company. See you at the Book Chat.
If there are any question, please call or email Cheryl Harris.

Cheryl Harris
239-225-7390
timcherylharris@aol.com



OUR NEW BADGES

Our new badges have a great new look custom designed specifically for "our" club. You might want to put it on your Christmas list and get one today!

These new badges are a step above our other club badges and will identify us clearly as LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED. We haven't changed our badges since the beginning days of our club over 30 years ago. The board voted on the badge pictured to the left and decided a 21st century look was in order. Your badge will have your own name and information on it.

Any new members will be able to order these badges. Any current members that have badges can order the new ones but are not required to do this. The price remains the same at \$11. Should you want to order a new badge contact me, Barbara Koeplinger. You can also order on line for \$11.50 or email me at bkoeplinger@gmail.com with your information.

Barb Koeplinger,
Hospitality Chairwoman



Barbara Koeplinger
Hospitality Chairwoman



LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER

LRWF has purchased three tables for anyone in our group to sit at. The tickets are \$175, but LRWF is offering them to our members for \$100. This is on a first come first serve basis, so please send your check to Mindy Moran as soon as you can. John Bolton will be the guest speaker. Join us!

Friday, February 10
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point
Speaker: Ambassador John Bolton



Merry Christmas



*Helen Louise "Nellie" Herron Taft
1861-1942*

Wife of President William Howard Taft



By Pat Baldwin

Considered to be one of the most politically astute First Ladies in US history, Nellie Herron was the fifth of ten children born to John Williamson Herron and Harriet Collins Herron on June 2, 1861 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She had seven sisters, five of whom survived to maturity, and two brothers.

Her father was a law partner to President Rutherford Hayes and a fellow student of Benjamin Harrison's. Raised Presbyterian, she would later join the Episcopal Church. Her high school subjects included English literature, natural science, French, German, Latin and Greek. She attended a fall semester at the University of Cincinnati studying German and chemistry. She then taught for two years.

Like a few of the preceding First Ladies who seemed to have a sixth sense that their beaux would one day be President of the US, Nellie experienced a strong desire to live in the White House as a future president's wife. This feeling came upon her while visiting President Hayes and his family in 1877 when she was 17.

Nine years later, she married a local boy, William Howard Taft. Of course, she had no knowledge that this 29 year old lawyer would one day make the White House hers if even for a short period of time. Three years after their wedding, Nellie, 28, gave birth to their first child, a son, Robert Alfonso, in 1889, followed by Helen in 1891, and Charles Phelps, in 1891.

Nellie had dreamed of a career in music. Instead, she taught kindergarten supporting her mother-in-law who had founded the free kindergarten movement. Nellie also helped to found the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Then came the big move to the Philippine Islands after her husband accepted the position of Governor General offered to him by President Roosevelt. They lived there for three years during which time she gave birth to Helen.

Nellie started a milk program for infants. While the custom was not to integrate with the native population, Nellie included the locals in her social events and also took language lessons and learned the local culture. Nellie was a hit with the islanders. In 1904, the couple was called back to Washington, and Taft was made Secretary of War. By 1908, Taft was ready to run for POTUS. Nellie was suspicious of Teddy Roosevelt who had declared, perhaps too early in his second term, that he had no desire to run for a third term. She suspected that he would make a run for the office knocking her husband out of the running.

But the worst did not happen. Taft won and Nellie, 47, started living the dream she had at 17. She became First Lady and that beautiful house was hers...for awhile. In May of 1909, just four months in the White House, Nellie suffered a stroke. She recovered but with a speech problem. Consequently, she avoided any public speaking. Her daughter left college to help her with her language problem while her sisters filled in as hostesses when needed.

Although slightly handicapped, this did not set Nellie back. She had plans and quickly brought them to light. She replaced the all white male attendants with African-Americans giving them the prestigious titles of "ushers". She also lifted Edith Roosevelt's ban on divorced individuals, invited members of Congress, included family members, and extended invitations to White House socials to all military ranks. She banned Sunday events leaving the day for families, and provided seats, and refreshments, to citizens attending the New Year's Day celebration, and the Easter Egg Roll. Moving with the times, she opted for automobiles and sent the horses out to pasture. And she served champagne punch because she liked champagne. She liked beer too. And she liked to gamble particularly at poker.

Inspired by the parks in the Philippines, Nellie decided to pack the West Potomac Park with blossoming cherry trees. The city of Tokyo donated 3,000 trees some of which are still standing. Amid the pink and white flowering trees, Nellie had a bandstand build for the Marine Band which conducted free concerts twice a week.

As national honorary chair of the National Civic Foundation, Nellie convinced Cabinet members to secure better working conditions for federal employees in DC. Three years later, the first federal act initiated by a First Lady was passed resulting in the renovation of federal buildings for the health and safety of the workers. She helped create a kindergarten system for Afro-American children in the South, stopped the deportation of a Jewish boy because he had learning difficulties, and supported pensions for Confederate widows.

In 1921, the couple returned to DC when the former President was made Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Simultaneously, Nellie rejected Prohibition much to her husband's chagrin. Like Edith Roosevelt, she drank and served liquor in her home.

The 27th President and 10th Supreme Court Justice of the US, died in 1931. Nellie died in 1942 at age 81. Both are buried in Arlington Cemetery. She and Jackie Kennedy are the only First Ladies buried there.

The Taft's son, Robert A., became a US Senator from Ohio and sought the Presidency in 1940, 1948 and 1952.

Charles Phelps Taft II was Mayor of Cincinnati from 1955 to 1957.

Helen Taft Manning, suffragette, became dean at 26 and, three years later, acting president of Bryn Mawr College. She married, had two daughters, returned to teaching and died at 95 in 1987.



Every once in a while, you come across something that so closely resembles what you want to say that you just have to quote it. Below is an article written by Carol Elaine of Carol Elaine Ministries. It was written on November 14th. I couldn't agree more with her assessment of Trump. Carol Elaine states that she does not understand how people can call Donald Trump a man of hatred! I too am puzzled by that comment! I don't see hatred in Donald Trump. Instead, I see a man full of compassion for people and his country. He has so much compassion that he doesn't care what anybody else thinks of him, as he has an agenda! His agenda is to straighten this country out! People have been looking and waiting for another Reagan. I was in that crowd, but I now honestly believe that Donald Trump is more than Reagan! He is Reagan magnified. Ronald Reagan once said, "The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help." He didn't care what other people thought of his political incorrectness...he was there to clean house! So is Donald Trump...magnified! Read on for Carol's article...

People have lost friends. Ministries have lost supporters. Employees have lost jobs. Employers have lost business. All over the Presidential election.

I'm sad as I watch millions of Americans fearful. They are truly fearful. I just didn't get it, until recently. I was asked by one of our students, "How could it be God's will for a man to win an election whose platform has been hatred?" I just didn't understand her question. I could not recognize the hatred to which she referred. What is she talking about? That question turned, over and over, in my mind for two days. After listening to her and meditating on it, I realized that it had to do mostly with "who" was voting for Trump.

I understand that hate-filled white supremacy groups, indeed racists, voted for him. In fact, I know it by personal experience. I was in the great Smokies recently and saw an elderly gentleman with a hat on that said, "Make America Great Again". I slipped up to him and said, "Me, too." In the beginning we had a nice chat until he stepped over the line. He was a racist. I let him know in no uncertain terms that his spill of hatred and racism was despised by me. He did not represent me nor millions of other God-fearing men and women who voted for Trump; 83% of evangelicals voted for him, 40% of women voted for him, 29% of Latinos voted for him, and he won more African American votes than any other Republican candidate in American history. So I vehemently reject the suggestion that white racists voted Trump in. Further, I reject the flawed logic that implies that because Trump's policies appealed to a racist, Trump is racist. I stand with millions of Americans who voted for him because of his potential to impact the Supreme Court through the appointment of Justices that defend the Constitution as it was written and not reinterpret it in line with new-wave progressive thought. We voted for Trump because of his stand on ILLEGAL immigration, globalism, abortion, unfair trade treaties, jobs, the care of our veterans, re-building the military, Second Amendment rights, lifting of the Johnson amendment allowing Christian ministers to speak freely from the pulpit and giving the government back to the people.

Allow me to say, when I watched the last debate where Trump spoke on his stand against abortion and the hope of the reversal of the ruling ROE versus WADE, while Hillary Clinton was for abortion, even up to one day before the child was born, it cemented my decision to vote for Trump. I could do no less since I've been praying for years for the reversal of this law.

There was fear, too, on the side of those who support Trump—fear that under either a Clinton or Sanders administration this nation would become communistic, the persecution of Christians would rise exponentially, the threat of nuclear war would increase and terrorists would infiltrate our nation, to name a few. Personally, I was most afraid of what would become of this great nation if we voted a traitor into the highest office. This was not just campaign rhetoric. We have ample evidence that Hillary sold (under the guise of donations to her foundation) our national secrets and resources (like plutonium) to the highest bidder! I ask you, what do you think would happen to this great country if the tolerance of corruption and defiance of our laws was not only allowed to continue, but spewed directly from the White House?

So, what about the protesters? What are they protesting? Who is behind them? Moveon.org. Who backs Moveon.org? None other than George Soros. Who is George Soros? The same one, who along with Hilary Clinton, funded the riots at Trump rallies in Chicago and elsewhere. Once again a certain faction of our society is trying to get those with a different viewpoint to shut their mouths, screaming insults such as hate, racist and bias. They have called Trump's campaign a "hate" campaign. Why? Two reasons: (1) He proposed building a wall along the Mexican and U.S. border; and (2) He proposed stopping Muslims, primarily Syrian refugees, from coming into the country without being properly vetted. Wake up, America. We are under attack. And Hillary Clinton proposed making it easier for the enemy to walk right through the front door. She proposed to massively increase admissions without a screening plan, including a 500% increase in Syrian refugees. And I won't even get into Benghazi, which is a sore spot with me.

I went to bed with the question about God's will for Trump in office. During the night I believe the Lord reminded me of Richard Nixon, who resigned in shame from office over the Watergate scandal. Certainly he could not have been God's choice to lead America. Or was he? As a young boy, Richard Nixon's Christian mother (a Quaker) told her son that one day he would be in a powerful position, and if Israel and the Jews ever needed his help, he was to give it him. Nixon's PURPOSE in office became clear in the hours after the October 1973 surprise attack on Israel by its Arabian enemies (the Yom Kippur War). Israel faced annihilation. Along the Israeli border with Syria, the so-called Golan Heights, 180 Israeli tanks faced 1,400 Syrian tanks supplied by the Soviet Union; likewise, Egypt crossed the Suez with 80,000 soldiers facing little Israeli opposition. It is reported that Nixon heard the voice of his mother repeating what she had said to him about Israel when he was a boy. He responded to the call and plea for help from Golda Meir at 3 o'clock in the morning. I believe the Lord spoke to me that there is one great thing for everyone to accomplish upon the Earth (sadly, sometimes, it is never fulfilled). Nixon's ONE great thing was to be the instrument God chose to save the nation of Israel.

Some of President Obama's accomplishments were as follows: Expanded Hate Crimes Protections; Recognized the Dangers of Carbon Dioxide; Expanded Stem Cell Research; Provided Payment to Wronged Minority Farmers; Pushed Broadband Coverage; Brokered Agreement for Speedy Compensation to Victims of Gulf Oil Spill. Which one was the ONE great thing? History will tell. On a side note, I have been very pleased with President Obama's peaceful transition and speeches he has made since Trump was elected. (*Your LRWF editor reserves and withholds judgement on the above Obama accomplishments.*)

Now the question is "What is God's will for Donald Trump"? What ONE great thing has God chosen for him to fulfill in history? (*Your LRWF editor believes that there are going to be several great things!*)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**PLEASE PAY 2017 DUES ASAP...IF YOU ARE NOT RENEWING, PLEASE ADVISE
SHARON GIBSON at gibsonsharon@comcast.net**

We currently have 175 members which includes 136 Full Members, 34 Associate Members, 5 Student Members.

NEW MEMBERS

Debra Scrogam
1338 Woodmere Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33919-1814
debscrogham@hotmail.com

Maggie Cooper
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Charlene DeCamp
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Connie J. Duquin
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239-495-1744

NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

Sydney Levin
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Joe@RPCRA.org
239-841-1350

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Avery Dimmig
10231 Ashbrook Court
Fort Myers, FL 33913-2601
Avery.dimmig@gmail.com
716-598-4976

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

In October, Sharon Gibson graciously opened her home to our new members to familiarize them with our program and to help them become involved in LRWF.

The photo to the left shows our new gals in Sharon's home as they are getting acquainted with all! Left to right in the front row seated are Betsy Howlett, Bonnie Azeltine, Germaine Hyatt and co-hostess Sharon Gibson. Left to right standing are Janie Gates, Jean Taylor, Peg Love, Judi Cabrera and Barbara Koeplinger!



Dear Democrats,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Trump's victory would not have been possible without you. Without Obama's arrogance and disregard for the Constitution, we would have never realized the need to preserve it.

Without Clinton's blatant lies, treason, and lawlessness, we would have never feared her administration.

Had you been patient and stayed on your path of slowly transforming this country, instead of trying to ridicule, bully, and shame us into cowering down to your utopian dream of a new world order, we would have never felt the urgency with which we needed to respond.

Without you trying to limit, regulate, and censor our speech, we would have never found our voice.

Without you doing everything you could to divide us, we never could unite.

Without you kneeling for our anthem, stomping on, and burning our flag, we never would have restored our patriotism.

Without you trying to remove God from every aspect of our lives, we never would have prayed as hard as we did.

None of this would have been possible without you! Thanks again!

God bless America!
(Author Unknown)



Bonnie Knoll, a member of LRWF and the proud grandmother of Thomas Birkholz who just became an Eagle Scout. Also pictured is her granddaughter Alyssa Birkholz.

OUR SPONSORS
Click on Pictures to View Websites



Lizbeth Benacquisto
Florida State Senate



Tommy Doyle
Candidate, Supervisor of Elections



Francis Rooney
Candidate Florida State Senate



Jeanne Dozier
Candidate Lee Co. School Board
Dist. 2



Kathleen Passidomo
Candidate, State Senate



Ray Rodriguez
Florida House of Representatives



Lori Fayhee



Donna Clarke
Lee Memorial Hospital Board



Linda Doggett
Lee County Clerk of Courts



Dane Eagle
Florida House of Representatives



Larry Hart
Lee County Tax Collector



Dan Sinclair



Heather Fitzenhagen
Florida House of Representatives



Mike Scott
Lee County Sheriff



Daniel Bongino



Larry Kiker
Lee County Commissioner
District 3

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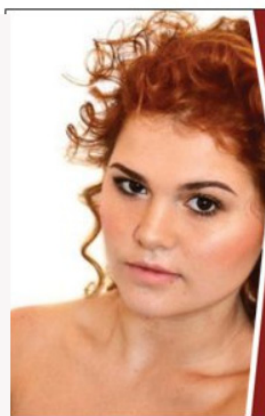
Click on Picture to View Websites



Sharon Harrington
Supervisor of Elections

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Email: awinstel@financialguide.com

THE PAST TWO MONTHS IN PICTURES



Left to right are Doris Cortese, President LRWF, Missi Lastra, President of Cape Coral Republican Women Federated, Jeremy Shefiel, Manager of Trump/Rubio Victory Office and Kerri Tonkin, Second Vice President LRWF at a Rubio function at the Veteran's Museum in Cape Coral.



Also in Cape Coral at the Veterans Museum are Lizbeth Benacquisto with Wally Cortese.



Marco Rubio, U.S. Senate with Mary Snyder, LRWF Newsletter editor.



Left to right at the October LRWF meeting are Donna Doyle, Tommy Doyle, Therese Everly and Judy Royal.



Chris Quackenbush and Jeanne Dozier!
They are campaigning friends!



Randolph Russell, our speaker for the meeting, spoke and played his saxophone.



Randolph Russell, author of "American History in No Time," speaks on education.



New Member Charlene DeCamp! Welcome Charlene!



Marie Kernan is trying on jewelry from our jewelry sale fundraiser!



Randy Henderson, Mayor of Fort Myers, Doris Cortese, President LRWF and Peter Simmons, Mayor of Bonita Springs. Randy and Peter gave us an update on their cities.



Jeremy Shefiel reports on the election and thanks all of those who worked so hard on the campaign.



Marilyn Stout, Cape Coral Councilwoman, tells us what's new in the Cape!