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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Americanism: Pat Baldwin
Achievement Awards: Carol Beaumont
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

THE MAHOUT

The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

JUNE 2016
*Strong Women
for a Strong America*



TODD WILCOX
Candidate for U.S. Senate

Todd Wilcox is a decorated combat veteran, a former CIA case officer and a successful entrepreneur and business leader, recently recognized as an Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 finalist. Todd is a devoted husband and father of three daughters and lives with his family in Orlando.

With a single mother working two jobs to make ends meet, Todd was at times the primary caregiver for his younger siblings in the South Tampa low income neighborhood where he grew up. At age 13, Todd got his first job washing dishes in the TECO (Tampa Electric) cafeteria. Later in his teen years, with the help of a mentor, Todd realized that he was hanging out with the wrong crowd and his life was heading in the wrong direction. His mentor convinced him that an education was his only chance to break out of poverty. Todd buckled down and graduated from Tampa's Robinson High School and earned an Army ROTC Scholarship to the University of Tampa.

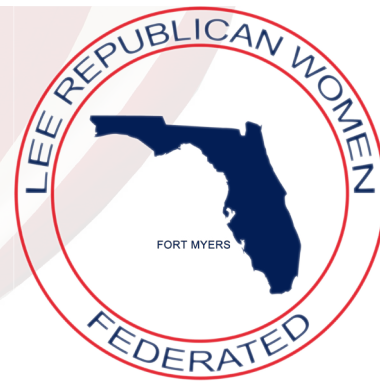
After earning his degree in finance, Todd was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in the U.S. Army. He went on to serve as a rifle platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division during Operation Desert Storm. Upon promotion to Captain, Todd volunteered for a transfer to the U.S. Army Special Forces branch and after earning his Green Beret he commanded a Special Forces A-team in a counterterrorism role in East Asia. After eight years of military service, Todd resigned to accept a position with the CIA to join America's global war on terrorism. While completing two years of Arabic studies and then serving from various U.S. Embassy postings in the Middle East and North Africa, Todd was also raising two daughters on his own as a single parent. His last assignment with the CIA was on the Joint Terrorism Task Force in the FBI field office in Orlando.

In 2006, Todd left government service and created Patriot Defense Group (PDG), a defense contracting company dedicated to serving those who defend America. Todd founded two other companies and the combined business operations over the past nine years range from specialized security training for U.S. special operations to defending corporate clients against cyber-security attacks and the ground delivery of the U.S. Postal mail to our troops in Afghanistan.

Todd's business success has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal and through awards such as Orlando Business Journal's "Veterans of Influence." His military and national security expertise earned him a seat on the board of directors of the National Defense University Foundation and the board of advisors for the Rand Corporation Center for Middle East Public Policy.

NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

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



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We have staked the whole of all our political Institutions upon the capacity of mankind for Self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to The Ten Commandments of God."

James Madison

(4th President & 'Father of the Constitution')

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, June 13th, at the beautiful Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers.

June's keynote speaker will be Todd Wilcox who is running for the U.S. Senate from Florida.

The menu choices are Pot Roast with Roasted Red Potatoes, Roasted Carrots, House Salad and Rolls or Chicken Carbonara (creamy white sauce, bacon and parmesan) with Herb Crusted Fingerling Potatoes, Sautéed Spinach, House Salad and Rolls. Dessert is Chocolate Mousse. Please remember the **deadline for reservations is Thursday June 9th at noon. This is also the deadline for making a cancellation.**

- \$25 Inclusive
- 5:15 PM Social Time /Dinner and Program following
- **Reservation Deadline 6/9/16 by noon**

For reservations: Call Wren Morefield 270-210-1284 or email wrenspet@hotmail.com.

To pay 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 table!

July's speakers will be Chancey Goss and Patrick Rooney who are candidates for the U.S. Congress

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Doris Cortese
LRWF President*

As the President of Lee Republican Women Federated, I have pledged support for whom-ever is the candidate for President of the United States. So, I will do whatever I can to get a Republican in the White House. Remember, there are many federal, state and local candidates who are being opposed. As dedicated women it is our responsibility to educate ourselves, and others, on the issues. But first we must find out where the candidates stand on the issues. Go to forums, talk to the candidates, and check out their websites.

At the Lincoln Reagan Dinner, Allen West said, "The future of our country hinges on the education that our children receive. It is up to us to ensure that they are taught conservative values and the importance of upholding the constitution." It is vitally important who is elected to our School Boards. It is critical that we question these candidates to make certain they are against Common Core and have true conservative values.

Remember, "Women are the Life of the Party!" We need to win the Paint the State Red Award for 2016. When you're out and about in SWFL wear your LRWF name badge. It's a great way to show our support to the Republican Party and also to attract new members to our club.

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

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Attorney Ita Neymotin, the Regional Counsel for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel for the Second District Court of Appeal of Florida, has been reappointed to her post by Governor Rick Scott. She has served in this capacity since 2011, when she became the youngest attorney and the only woman appointed in the state of Florida. Now at age 43, she maintains those distinctions among all five District Court of Appeal regions across the state.

She is responsible for the 14 counties that make up the Second District Court of Appeal, managing 140 attorneys and support staff with an annual budget that exceeds \$9 million. The Regional Counsel defends parties when the Public Defender's office has a conflict in a case. The office also represents indigent clients in juvenile dependency as well as certain types of civil cases. Neymotin is responsible for the counties including Lee, Collier, Hendry, Charlotte, Glades, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Polk, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

Neymotin's original appointment in 2011 represented a return to the Regional Counsel, as she had served as a trial attorney and chief for the office from 2007 to 2010. She practiced with the Office of the Public Defender for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit from 2004 to 2007, the Kremenchuker Law Firm P.A. from 2003 to 2004, and the Office of the State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit from 2002 to 2003. Neymotin received a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and a law degree and Master of Laws from Capital University Law School. She is reappointed for a term ending September 30, 2019.

Neymotin is also chair of the Local Professionalism Panel for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, and is a frequent speaker on professionalism issues for agencies and conferences across Florida. She was the recipient of Capital University Law School's 2015 Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award. Upon the invitation of the Ukrainian government, she visited that country to advise its officials on improving their system of justice, enhancing its public image and dealing with the problem of selective persecution. Neymotin is on The Florida Bar Grievance Committee, and was the 2015 Medal of Honor recipient from the Collier County Bar Association. She also teaches the Florida Criminal Law and Procedure Class at Ave Maria Law School.



*Ita Neymotin
Regional Counsel for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel,
Second District Court of Appeal*

HOW DO YOU PAINT THE STATE RED????

**Unify! Unify! Unify!
"Speak no evil of a fellow Republican!!!"
Vote! Vote! Vote!**



MEMBERSHIP 2016

- If you have not received your 2016 Club Directory, please see me at the next meeting to obtain a copy.
- If you have changes in your address or phone number, please drop me an email so I can update the roster. You may email me at gibsonsharon@comcast.net.
- Election year is a great opportunity for you to talk to other women about your conservative values. The press tells us that people who have never been involved in politics are out discussing the candidates this year. Let them know if they are a registered Republican they can join our organization and be a part of getting local, state and national Republicans elected in 2016.
- Remember to look for the red, white and blue corsages on our membership/hospitality committee members. We are here to help you with questions or concerns.

Sharon Gibson
Membership Chair 2016

NEW MEMBER

Susan Kohler
5762 Beechwood Trail
Fort Myers, FL 33919-3478
239-410-7275
Susanehr@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP

116 Full Members
29 Associate Members
2 Student Members
147 Total

PHONE CORRECTION

Torry Renza (student member)
681-758-9004



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.

NW 1600
BLK PENNSYLVANIA AVE

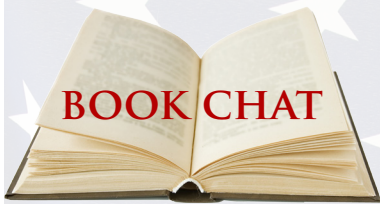
HELP TAKE BACK THE WHITEHOUSE!

Call Kerri Tonkin at 907-321-0419
or email Kerri.tonkin@gmail.com
and ask her how you can get involved!

FROM FFRW DISTRICT 7S REPRESENTATIVE – CARMEN SALOMÉ

1. Please be sure to track your volunteer hours. A simple to use tracking sheet is available through your club Awards officer, your club website, or email me at carmen.salome4@gmail.com and I will gladly email a copy to you.
2. Priscilla Grannis, President of the Republican Women of Naples Federated has been unanimously elected by the FFRW Executive Committee to serve out the remainder of the term of 3rd VP of FFRW. Her duties will include oversight of the State FFRW Membership Committee. Join me in congratulating Priscilla. We look forward to learning and growing our clubs under her leadership.

Politics is
**WOMEN'S
WORK**
florida federation of republican women



Book Chat will be suspended for the months of June, July and August. We will resume on Wednesday, September 7. We will meet at the home of Mindy Moran from 2:00-4:00. Our discussion will be about the movie, Hillary's America based on Dinesh D'Souza's book, Stealing America. The movie will be released in mid July.

D'Souza ended up in prison for eight months for donating money to a friend's Senate campaign.

The time he spent in prison, fundamentally transformed his view of his adopted country. He had seen America through the eyes of a grateful immigrant who became successful by applying and defending conservative principles. He argued against liberalism as though it were a genuine movement of ideas capable of being engaged and refuted. His exposure to the criminal underclass provided an eye-opening education in American realities. He learned that America is anything but fair and just. American liberalism is not a movement of ideas at all, but a series of scams and cons aimed at nothing less than stealing the entire wealth of the nation. This idea has built up over more than two centuries. Who are the leading figures in this ambitious scheme? They are none other than Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. This pair of smooth-talking con artists, trained in the methods of Saul Alinsky, have taken his crude but effective political shakedown techniques to a level even he never dreamed of.

See the movie and come for a spirited discussion. It is a great opportunity to have conversation with like minded ladies. Please call Cheryl Harris or Mindy Moran for directions.

Have a healthy happy summer and we will see you in September.

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

Mindy Moran
239-288-7130
mindy7156@yahoo.com



Contact Rosemary Lewis to purchase
239-284-6477

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FROM SPEAKER RYAN

It's right there in the Preamble to the Constitution. One of the chief responsibilities of our federal government is to "provide for the common defense." It's a duty that Speaker Ryan takes very seriously, and in fact, this past week, the House acted decisively on a national defense bill that:

1. *Gives our troops a pay raise,*
2. *Funds their training, and*
3. *Prevents the administration from bringing GITMO terrorists to American soil.*

These are common sense steps towards building a 21st-century military, but for most Americans, there is an even simpler way to express support for our men and women in uniform, and that's to say "thank you."

To read more about this legislation, [CLICK HERE](#).

Also, [CLICK HERE](#) to read about "Everything President Obama Promised Us About The Iran Deal Is Starting To Unravel" by Speaker Ryan

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about how the "House GOP wins Obamacare lawsuit."



Julia Boggs Dent Grant 1826-1902
Wife of President Ulysses S. Grant



Americanism Republican First Ladies

By Pat Baldwin

Julia Grant served eight years as First Lady. She enjoyed entertaining and fashion. After furnishing the private quarters of the White House within the \$30,000 allotted by Congress, she obtained another stipend of \$100,000 to redo the first-floor rooms. She allowed her teenage son to railroad across the country to California, naively accepted gifts from dignitaries as personal gifts while using her political savvy to advise her husband on his appointments. Julia was in her element.

She was raised in an upper class household on a farm outside of St. Louis, Missouri. Her mother immigrated from England where the family owned an import-export company dealing in trade with China. Her father was a successful fur trader and owner of a steamboat hauling commercial goods on the Mississippi. He built the family home with the help of his thirty slaves. It was there that Julia was born in Jan. of 1826, the fifth of her parents' children. Her father gave her, at her birth, a slave girl, Julia aka Jule, slightly older who would be Julia's companion for half their lives. She boarded at a school in St. Louis from ages 10 to 17.

Otherwise, she preferred hunting, riding, and fishing. Her report card probably would have stated: 1. needs improvement 2. is not applying herself. She adored her father and he her. Julia loved dancing. She wasn't above betting on cards or horses and enjoyed the occasional glass of wine or two.

In 1844, her older brother, Fred, a cadet at West Point, brought home a friend, Ulysses S. Grant. Engagement to Grant quickly followed. They wed four years later in 1848 after the Mexican American War. She was 22 and he was 26. Within the next 10 years, they had four children. In 1852, Ulysses was assigned to Humboldt Bay, CA. Missing Julia, he resigned from the Army to take up farming. Julia reportedly cried out to God above asking if this was how she would live the rest of her life. Ulysses gave up farming and became a clerk in his father's tannery in Galena, Ill.

Then the Civil War broke out. Ulysses was reinstated as a Colonel by the State of Illinois serving in the 21st Infantry. Two months later, Lincoln appointed him Brigadier General. Julia became a very astute diplomat. She shared her father's Democrat leanings believing in states' rights and in the right to own slaves. She held four of her own. She believed, as her husband did, that it was the federal government's right and duty to hold the Union together. She was totally devoted to her husband and was a soldier's wife ready to face the difficulties. The Grants' devotion to each other was never more so than during the war years. Grant insisted that his wife and family be near as long as it was deemed safe. reportedly had a drinking problem. His wife and children were his support group. At no time during the war did anyone ever accuse him of being drunk. The family faced the war together. Their son Fred, age 12, was grazed by a bullet while watching the battle at Vicksburg. Julia and Jule, traveling at the time, missed being captured when Confederates raided the home. Both she, the children, and Jule, thanks to photography, were targets of kidnappers. Jule, if caught, would have gained the Confederates great publicity focusing on the hypocrisy of Grant fighting against slavery while his wife kept slaves. Jule never attempted to run even in free Illinois. She continued with Julia even working with her nursing both Union and Confederate soldiers. Finally, at 37, she ran when the family was in Louisville, Kentucky. Although this was probably upsetting to Julia, General Grant could have seen it as an answer to his prayers. Julia had to face the loss of southern friends and family who saw the Grants as Lincolnites, and from northerners who saw her as a "secesh" (one who is pro secession) and a slave owner. Towards the end of the war, the Philadelphia Union Club provided a house for the family worth \$30,000. Julia lived on Chestnut Street with the children leaving only to visit her husband wherever he was headquartered. After the war, the family returned to Galena greeted by 10,000, a victory parade and a furnished brick home.

Julia had a sixth sense. Upon meeting Ulysses for the first time, Julia said, "He's going to be President." She dreamed that he would return after their first meeting and propose. He did. She heard a voice telling her she would not live her life at Hardscrabble. In 1871, planning a trip to Chicago, she dreamed of a fire and canceled her trip avoiding the tragedy which occurred shortly after. Days before the Lincoln assassination, she saw a man in her neighborhood who frightened her and feared for the safety of her family. Quickly, she planned a trip to New Jersey and politely declined the Lincolns' invitation to the theatre that April night.

Having won the 1868 election, the Grants moved into 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. She held receptions for the public opening them, for the first time, to all races. She also advised the black staff on how to handle their finances and purchase homes. She quietly supported a dying black war veteran who had to leave his job at the White House providing for his medical and daily needs. She was instrumental in obtaining a pardon for a Union soldier found guilty of desertion when he ran home to be with his wife during childbirth. She was criticized for her weight, dress, and perceived haughtiness. But most, including the press, found her down to earth, genuine and kind. After leaving the mansion they settled in New York City where Julia took up a position of society grand dame entertaining foreign dignitaries and the elite. She also became friends with the other First Ladies and an active participant in Washington society. She became an active supporter of women's suffrage with Susan B. Anthony believing that women could maintain a home and vote. She had strong opinions on the necessity of women holding their marriages together reminding them to keep love and romance alive in their homes. In 1884, President Grant got throat cancer and suffered a financial setback having involved himself, against Julia's objections, in a Ponzi scheme. He decided to write his memories hoping that the money from the book's sale would provide for Julia. He died a week before it was published. The book, published by Mark Twain, earned Julia \$400,000. Julia was both stoic and cheerful while nursing her husband but too filled with grief to attend her General's funeral. She died in 1902. She was 74.

Legislative UPDATE

By Jeanne Dosier

Since the School Year is drawing to a close and on Capital Hill the Congressmen and Congresswomen as well as the 50 state Senators are busy passing Legislation which will affect the Public Schools, I thought this would make for interesting reading.

House Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill Clears Committee

The House Education & the Workforce Committee approved the Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016 (HR 5003) on May 18 with a largely partisan vote of 20 - 14. More than two dozen amendments were considered. Ultimately, HR 5003 was approved.

Both chambers now have committee-passed bills to reauthorize six major nutrition programs-including school breakfast and lunch. The Senate bill is the Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act (ICINA) and was approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee in January 2016.

Local school board engagement: Both bills increase stakeholder engagement - including school boards - in policy and implementation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For example, both the House and Senate bills would establish a School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC) to advise the Secretary, and the Committee would include a school board representative. The House bill includes an additional provision for triennial review of national standards, and a requirement to consult with school boards as part of the process. Further, the House bill includes an ESSA-like provision prohibiting the Secretary from establishing regulations or requirements not explicitly authorized by statute.

Senate HELP Committee Convenes Third Oversight Hearing on ESSA Implementation

On May 18, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing entitled, "ESSA Implementation: Perspectives from Education Stakeholders." Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) convened the hearing to discuss concerns over the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) negotiated rulemaking regulatory proposal on Title I supplement, not supplant (SNS) and the unintended consequences of this regulation. This is the third of six HELP Committee oversight hearings related to ESSA implementation.

Career and Technical Education Reauthorization

The Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing this week to discuss recommendations for reauthorizing the Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act. Last reauthorized in 2006, CTE provides more than \$1 billion to states and school districts annually to help support curricula and training for students, including apprenticeships and credentials needed in the workforce. During the hearing, both witnesses and Committee members noted the success of CTE programs and provided insight about efforts underway to align CTE programs with local and regional workforce demands. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) testified before the Committee and discussed efforts he is championing in the Senate to support greater opportunities for college and career readiness, such as dual enrollment and expanded partnerships with business and industry.

Changes to Labor's Overtime Rules

On May 18, President Obama and Secretary Perez announced the publication of the Department of Labor's final rule updating the overtime regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The rule, which does not impact teachers and administrators, will go into effect for public, private and non-profit employers on December 1, 2016. To date, Congress has conducted several oversight hearings of the Department of Labor to examine the requirements of the rule. Now that the Department of Labor is taking final steps to finalize the rule, individual members of Congress have stated that they are evaluating and considering ways to delay or nullify the rule prior to the rule becoming effective.

NSBA has initially reviewed the final rule and identified the following changes affecting school districts as employers:

1. Rule: Though the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) new overtime rule is anticipated to be published on May 23, 2016, the final rule does not take effect until December 1, 2016.

Implications: This could be a challenge for school districts, because by this time in a school district's calendar, most school districts have likely already prepared their budgets for the upcoming 2016-17 school year.

2. Rule: Although the executive, administrative, and professional exemptions expressly apply to an "employee employed in the capacity of academic administrative personnel or teacher[s]," the salary level and salary basis requirements do not apply to bona fide teachers. Implications: Administrators and teachers are exempt from the overtime rule, and are not eligible for overtime compensation.

3. Rule: The minimum salary threshold for all non-highly-compensated employee categories (executive, administrative, and professional) is \$47,476/year, based on the lowest-wage Census Region (Southern).

4. Rule: The minimum salary threshold for all highly compensated employees has been raised to \$134,004/year.

Implications: This higher threshold means more highly paid school district employees will be ineligible for overtime under the rule.

5. Rule: The proposed annual update to the minimum salary threshold has been changed from every year to every THREE years, setting the date for the increase to a firm January 1st date, beginning on January 1, 2020.

Implications: A longer period for threshold changes means school districts do not have to anticipate yearly budgetary changes. Thus, a school district can prepare for the January 1, 2020 increase during the 2019-20 SY budget planning in early Spring 2019.

6. Rule: The final rule allows employers to include NON-discretionary bonuses, incentives, and commissions, paid quarterly or more frequently, as part of the total annual salary for exempt-status determinations.

7. Rule: No change to the "Duties Test." Implications: None. Salaried workers who primarily perform executive, administrative, or professional duties continue to be exempt from DOL's overtime rules. DOL may move to alter the duties test in the future based on comments received during this notice and comment period.

These are just a few of the many pieces of Legislation that passes through Congress each session that gives the Federal Government the over reaching arm to have a say in the day to day business of the States' Public School Systems.

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



Chris Quakenbush
Candidate Lee Co. School Board, Dist. 7



Carmen Salomé
Candidate, Supervisor of Elections



Larry Hart
Lee County Tax Collector



Donna Clarke
Lee Memorial Hospital Board



Heather Fitzenhagen
Florida House of Representatives



Dane Eagle
Florida House of Representatives



Dan Sinclair
Candidate, Supervisor of Elections



Ray Rodriguez
Florida House of Representatives



Mike Scott
Lee County Sheriff



Kevin Ruane
Mayor, Sanibel Island

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



*Jeanne Dozier
Lee Co. School Board, Dist. 2*



*Matt Caldwell
Florida House of Representatives*



*Stephanie Eller
Candidate Lee County Sheriff*



*Lori Fayhee
Candidate Lee Co. School Board, Dist. 3*



*Kathleen Passidomo
Candidate for State Senate*



*Marilyn Stout
Cape Coral City Council*



*Linda Doggett
Lee County Clerk of Courts*



*Tommy Doyle
Candidate, Supervisor of Elections*



*Sharon Harrington
Supervisor of Elections*



*Larry Kiker
Lee County Commissioner District 3*

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES
MAY 2016



Judy Royal, LRWF member smiles pretty at our May meeting!



Glo Smith our May speaker and James Muwakkil, President of the local NAACP take a selfie!



Stephanie Eller tells us why she wants to be the new Lee County Sheriff and what her vision for the position is.



Roz Lessor, Lee Co. Campaign Chairman for the Trump campaign, tells us why we need to unify!

LRWF GOES TO THE LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER



Jonathan Martin, President LCREC with his lovely fiancée, Amy D'alessandro!



We were blessed with piano music in the reception area as we waited for dinner!



Cole Wright in his last year as a midshipman at the US Naval Academy listens intently to Col. West



Our beloved Wally Cortese with Lt. Col. Allen West! Wally sat with the honored veterans during the dinner.



Barb Koeplinger and Donna Clark with Mary Snyder in the background waiting for dinner and chatting.



Maria Kernan and Clara Callahan hang out together!



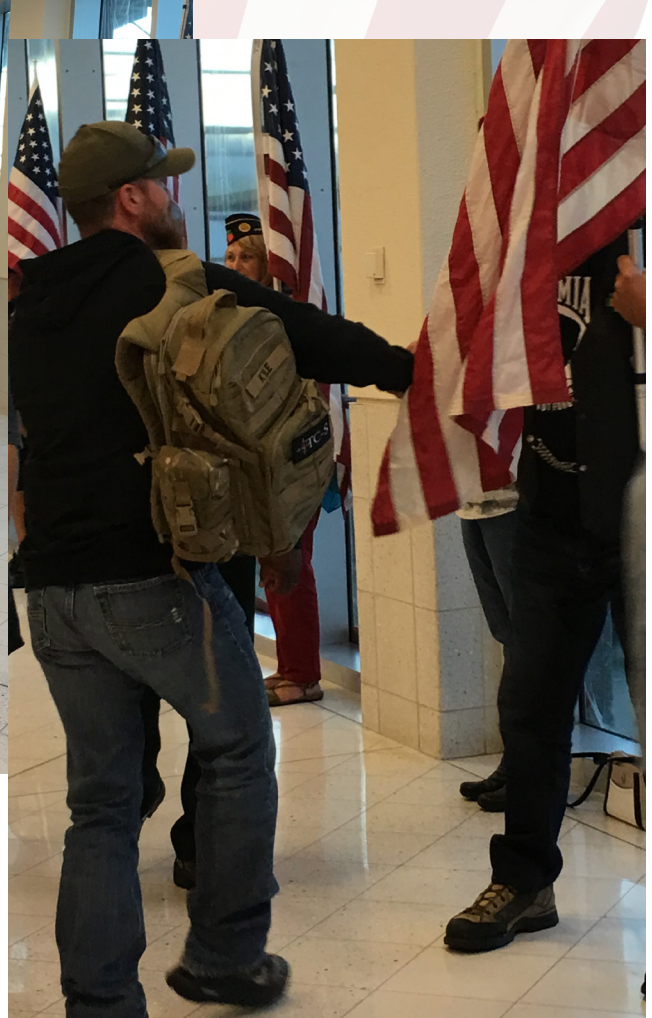
Left to right are Barb Koeplinger, Lt. Col. Allen West and Mary Snyder.

OUR LRWF LADIES GREET JEFF KYLE AT RSW AIRPORT

Sharon Gibsons and Barb Koeplinger greet Jeff Kyle, brother of the American Sniper Chris Kyle and the next day Barb spends time with our hero and his lovely wife at the Fort Myers Beach American Legion!



Sharon Gibsons is holding the flag on the left front.



Jeff Kyle as he shakes the hand of a well-wisher!



Jeff and Dr. Amy Kyle on the left and middle and Barb Koeplinger on the right

*Thanks for your service
and sacrifice Jeff!*

MEMORIAL DAY 2016



Chauncy Goss, left with Doris Cortesse, President LRWF and her husband Wally...celebrating Memorial Day together!