

## OFFICERS

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

## NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Chaplain, Judi Cabrera  
Historian, Judy O'Donnell  
Photographer, Jessica Armstrong

# THE MAHOUT

## The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

APRIL 2016

*Strong Women  
for a Strong America*



## WANT TO WIN THE WHITE HOUSE?

**Call Kerri Tonkin at 907-321-0419 or  
email at [Kerri.tonkin@gmail.com](mailto:Kerri.tonkin@gmail.com) and  
ask her how you can get involved!**

## LIZBETH BENACQUISTO

Lizbeth Benacquisto is a Republican member of the Florida State Senate, representing the 30th District, which is based in Charlotte and Lee Counties, since 2012. She was a candidate in the special election for United States Congress in the 19th District of Florida.

Benacquisto was born in Rockville Centre, New York in 1967 and moved to Florida in 1978, where she attended Palm Beach Atlantic University and worked as a realtor and marketing consultant. She served as a Wellington Village Councilwoman from 2002 to 2010.

In 2010, incumbent Democratic State Senator Dave Aronberg opted against seeking another term in the State Senate, instead choosing to run for Attorney General of Florida. Benacquisto ran to succeed him, and narrowly defeated State Representative Sharon J. Merchant and Mike Lameyer in the Republican primary. In the general election, Benacquisto faced off against Kevin J. Rader, a State Representative and the Democratic nominee. The district



*Lizbeth Benacquisto  
Florida State Senate*

spanned from West Palm Beach on the Gold Coast to Cape Coral on the Sun Coast. In the end, following a toughly-fought campaign, Benacquisto defeated her opponent by a surprisingly wide margin, winning 54% of the vote to pick up the seat for the Republican Party.

When Florida Senate districts were reconfigured in 2012, Benacquisto ran for re-election in the 30th District, which included parts of the old 27th District that she had represented, but was not where her home in Wellington was located. Regardless, she won her party's nomination unopposed, and faced off against Democratic nominee Debbie Jordan in the general election. In the end, she was overwhelmingly re-elected, receiving 62% of the vote.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*A government which robs Peter to pay Paul  
can always depend on the support of Paul.  
George Bernard Shaw*

## LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, April 11th, at the beautiful Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers.

April's keynote speaker will be Lizbeth Benacquisto, Florida State Senator. And also, we will have a candidate forum with the candidates running for Supervisor of Elections and Carlos Beruff who is running for Marco Rubio.

The menu choice is Chicken Parmesan or Pan Seared Salmon with a Bourbon Glaze. With the meal will be garlic potatoes, peas and carrots, Caesar salad and Carrot Cake for dessert. Please remember the deadline for reservations is Thursday April 7th by noon. This is also the deadline for making a cancellation.

- \$25 Inclusive
- 5:15 PM Social Time / Dinner and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 4/7/16 **by noon**

Make reservations with Wren Morefield by calling 270-210-1284 or emailing [wrenspet@hotmail.com](mailto:wrenspet@hotmail.com).

**You may pay online with credit card by going 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!**

*May's speaker will be  
Glo Smith, Elections Chair FFRW*

## NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

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

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Doris Cortese  
LRWF President*

At long last our presidential primary is over and the voters in Florida have made their choice. I want to remind you that in August we have another primary for many offices... Federal, State and Local and our state senators and representatives will also be up for re-election. Not only is it critical that we elect a Republican US Senator to replace Marco Rubio, but It is vital that we retain the Congress and Senate. Our support and prayers are critical for us to keep our country, state and Lee County filled with conservative officials.

During the coming months, we will have many candidates at our meetings as speakers, just as we did in March with Lieutenant Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera. We will also have candidates as part of a forum, as we will in April with Supervisor of Elections. I urge you to attend these meetings and bring guests to attend with you. When you come, please listen with an open heart and mind, and then make an informed decision. It is necessary to keep our country conservative and safe.

On a lighter note, spring is here and we are having beautiful southwest Florida weather. It is time for all of us to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine. My dog is spending his afternoons lying in the sun on our lanai and I am tempted to follow his example. Have a delightful month and enjoy our lives here in beautiful southwest Florida.

Doris Cortese  
President, LRWF

## MEMBER CANDIDATE OF THE MONTH

Sharon Harrington was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and moved to Fort Myers in 1975. She attended Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland and Edison Community College in Fort Myers majoring in Accounting and Business Administration.

Prior to her employment with the Lee County Supervisor of Elections Office she spent 24 years in management positions for a variety of businesses both in Ohio and Florida.

Sharon began her employment with the Supervisor of Elections on April 3, 1989 as Fiscal Officer/Human Resources Director and worked very closely with Philinda Young, the previous Supervisor. She has worked in all departments of the Elections Office and was a part of the transition teams that worked on the countywide conversion to the touch screen voting systems in 2002 and the optical scan system in 2008.

She was promoted to Assistant Supervisor-Finance/HR in December of 2002. Sharon was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of Philinda Young by Governor Jeb Bush on January 20, 2004, and took office on February 16, 2004. She was elected to the position in November of 2004. Sharon received her state certification in Elections Administration July 28, 2006.

Civic organization participation includes: Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers Board of Directors where she served as chairman for 10 years; Life Member and Kiwanis Lady of Kiwanis International, currently a member of the Kiwanis Club of Fort Myers-South and the Fort Myers Women's Community Club.

Sharon was elected to Who's Who Worldwide for Business and Professional Leaders and was awarded the ABWA Woman of the Year award.



*Sharon Harrington  
Supervisor of Elections*

## OUR SPONSORS

*Click on Pictures to View Their Websites*



*Marilyn Stout  
Cape Coral City Council*



*Larry Hart  
Lee County Tax Collector*



*Carmen Salomé  
Candidate, Supervisor of Elections*

## MEMBERSHIP 2016

2016 DIRECTORIES – Thank you to Donna Clarke for all the work she did on our LRWF Club Directory. You will receive your copy at the next meeting that you attend. Due to error of the printer, please note we have a page of stickers for you to put in the front. This list contains the names of our club officers.

Please update your directory when changes appear in the club newsletter.

It is up to each individual member to notify either Mary Snyder, newsletter editor, or myself, Sharon Gibson, membership chair, to provide the club with new contact information.

SHARON GIBSON, Membership Chairwoman 2016

### NEW MEMBERS

Roz Lesser  
2616 SW 52nd Street  
Cape Coral, FL 33914-6694  
239-945-1803  
239-443-0566  
ROZLESSER@msn.com

Karla Campos-Andersen  
1617 Hendry Street,  
Suite 311  
Fort Myers, FL 33901-2934  
239-210-0537  
239-281-0079  
kcampos0505@yahoo.com

### MEMBER RENEWALS

Ciavarelli, Carol  
14680 Bald Eagle Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33912-7026  
215-896-4612  
cciavarelli1946@gmail.com

Messmer, Heather  
8695 College Parkway,  
Suite 1010  
Fort Myers, FL 33919-3628  
239-489-9912  
Ruthmessmer1952@gmail.com

### ASSOCIATE CORRECTION

Doyle, III, Thomas  
1386 Sheffield Way  
Fort Myers, FL 33919-2222  
239-707-6392  
tommy@votetommydoyle.com

### CURRENT TOTALS

Full members	115
Associate members	29
Student members	2
Total	146



JEANNETTE RANKIN, Republican from Montana, became the first woman elected to the US House of Representatives. She took her seat, at age 36, on March 4, 1917 three years before other women were given the vote. An active pacifist, she and 49 others voted against the U.S. involvement in World War I. Having issues with the powerful mining interests in her home state, she was defeated in 1918. She then became a delegate to the Women's International Conference on Permanent Peace in Zurich, Switzerland. Ten years later, she organized the Georgia Peace Society in Georgia where she had purchased a home. Following her second successful election, she reentered Congress in 1941. She was the only legislator to vote against a declaration of war against Japan. Consequently, her career was damaged beyond repair and she did not seek reelection.

Born June 11, 1880, she was the oldest of seven. She was graduated from the University of Montana in 1902 and began a career as a teacher. Six years later, she entered what is now the Columbia School of Social Work in New York City. She moved to Spokane, Washington, where she joined the suffrage movement. After that state gave women the vote, she returned to Montana to work there for women's suffrage which was obtained in November of 1914. After WWII, she retired to her Georgia farm. Always the pacifist, she became active again leading the Jeannette Rankin Brigade of 500,000 women protesting the Viet Nam war. She died on May 18, 1973, at age 92, in Carmel, California. The money left from her estate was the base of the Jeanette Rankin Foundation which, since her death, has provided educational funds of 1.8 million to over 700 women. "A Single Woman" is the film biography of Ms. Rankin.

## OUR SPONSORS

*Click on Pictures to View Their Websites*



Larry Kiker  
Lee County Commissioner District 3



Matt Caldwell  
Florida House of Representatives



Linda Doggett  
Lee County Clerk of Courts

**EVERYBODY WINS!!!**

**SHOP OUR WEBSITE FIRST...**  
**BEFORE YOU GO ANYWHERE ELSE**

For a preview **CLICK** on the logos below!

**YOU SHOP...LRWF EARNS!**

*Clothing*

*Cosmetics*

*Jewelry*

*Permanent Makeup*

*Tax Services*

*Travel*

*Vitamins*

*Doncaster*

*Mary Kay*

*Premier Designs*

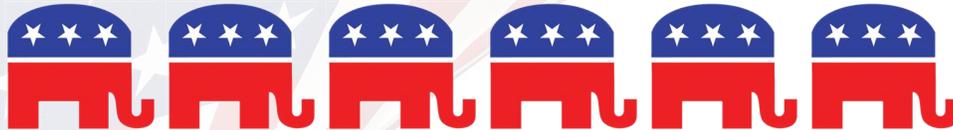
*The Classic Face*

*A Economical B&B Income Tax, Inc.*

*WorldVentures*

*Nature's Sunshine*

*Silpada*



### OUR SPONSORS

*Click on Pictures to View Their Websites*



*Chris Quakenbush*  
*Candidate Lee Co. School Board, Dist. 3*



*Stephanie Eller*  
*Candidate Lee County Sheriff*



*Tommy Doyle*  
*Candidate, Supervisor of Elections*



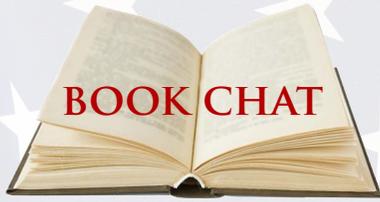
*Donna Clarke*  
*Lee Memorial Hospital Board*



*Heather Fitzhagen*  
*Florida House of Representatives*



*Mike Scott*  
*Lee County Sheriff*



For April's Book Chat, we will discuss the movie, Trumbo. The story centers on the streamlined account of the Hollywood blacklist and the fiercely independent writer, Dalton Trumbo. He once commanded high fees, but because of the blacklist, he had to secretly churn out cheap scripts to support his family. His dedication eventually helped break the blacklist and expose its hollowness. This is a stark reminder of how conservatives are currently assaulted in Hollywood.

We will meet at the home of Linda Suter on April 6, from 2:00- 4:00. The movie is available on DVD and at netflix. Check the library, it was released on February 16.

Come and enjoy meeting with like-minded ladies for good conversation and snacks.

Please afford the hostess your consideration by responding, so she may plan accordingly.

Linda Suter

239-340-9807

jandlsuter@comcast.net

Cheryl Harris, Book Chat Chairperson



**OUR SPONSORS**

Click on Pictures to  
View Their Websites



*Kathleen Passidomo  
Candidate for State Senate*



*Sharon Harrington  
Supervisor of Elections*



*Dane Eagle  
Florida House of Representatives*



*Kevin Ruane  
Mayor, Sanibel Island*



*Ray Rodriguez  
Florida House of Representatives*



Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.

*Because love shouldn't hurt, LRWF has committed  
the next year to help and promote ACT,  
an Abuse Counseling and Treatment program.*

**Love Shouldn't Hurt ...**

*Providing safe and confidential services for victims of  
domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking  
in Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties since 1978.*

*Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT)  
P.O. Box 60401  
Ft Myers, FL 33906*

*24-Hour Hotline/TDD: 239.939.3112*

*Administration: 239.939.2553*

*Fax: 239.939.4741*

*Email: [act@actabuse.com](mailto:act@actabuse.com)*

*Website: [actabuse.com](http://actabuse.com)*

*Florida Hotlines: 800.500.1119 or 888.956.7273*

*National Hotline: 800.799.SAFE*

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Jeanne Dozier, LRWF Legislative Chair

March 11, 2016 was the conclusion of the the 60th day of the Legislative session. Constitutionally, this is the scheduled last day. All of the real work on the budget for next year was completed earlier in the week; however, the Legislature is not allowed to vote on the budget until after a 72 hour cooling off period. The final budget report was printed on Tuesday March 8, 2016. Passing the budget is Constitutionally the only item that must be done; however, each member of the legislature has other priority bills that they work on. Final passage on most bills (where they actually go to the governor) happens during the last two days of the session. Often, there are issues that either the House or the Senate want more than the other. To get everything done, bills are piled into "trains" in order to facilitate the horse trading of... I'll take your bill if you will take mine. When all of the business is done, the Legislature traditionally has a sine die ceremony. The members of each house march out of their chambers and gather in the lobby between the chambers on the 4th floor of the Capitol. Usually, the Governor will join them with the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate in honored positions. The Sargent At Arms of each of the houses each hold white handkerchiefs which they drop at the exact same time to signify the end of business for the year. Afterward, the Governor, Speaker and President typically make some speeches. When the end of session is less than cordial, the ceremony is occasionally lost altogether.

Please find below information about what bills passed during this session and a brief explanation about each .

The document below shows bills that passed this session in their final "enrolled" form. The last two bills to be enrolled were finalized on March 14, 2016.

In a surprising move largely because the budget had not been delivered to the Governor, yet, the Governor's office announced March 15th that he will sign the budget and provided a list of over \$250 million in project vetoes. Nothing in this veto list would require a special session to continue funding for any standing department of the state, so legislative activity will almost certainly die down until after the election with the possible exception of the Seminole Compact or other nagging issue.

In the event there is any activity regarding any unfinished legislation I will write about that during the next few months.

### ENROLLED BILLS...

#### ***SB 0124 Relating to Public-private Partnerships Evers***

Public-private Partnerships; Deleting provisions creating the Public-Private Partnership Guidelines Task Force; requiring a private entity that submits an unsolicited proposal to pay an initial application fee and additional amounts if the fee does not cover certain costs; deleting provisions relating to notice to affected local jurisdictions; authorizing a negotiated portion of revenues from fee-generating uses to be returned to the responsible public entity, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016  
03/08/16 SENATE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

#### ***SB 0126 Relating to Public Records And Public Meetings/Public-private Partnerships Evers***

Public Records and Public Meetings/Public-private Partnerships; Transferring, renumbering, and amending provisions relating to public-private partnerships for public facilities and infrastructure; providing an exemption from public records requirements for a specified period for unsolicited proposals received by a responsible public entity; providing an exemption from public records requirements for a specified period for the recording of, and any records generated during, a closed meeting; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemptions; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. Effective Date: On the same date that SB 124 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law  
03/08/16 SENATE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

#### ***SB 0230 Relating to Missing Persons with Special Needs Dean***

Missing Persons with Special Needs; Creating pilot projects in specified counties to provide personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$200,000.00 Effective Date: 7/1/2016  
03/10/16 SENATE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

#### ***HB 0287 Relating to Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative Diaz (M)***

Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative: Creates Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative; provides requirements for participation, exemptions, professional development, funding, rulemaking, & reporting; provides authorization period for participation in program; provides for renewal or revocation of authorization to participate in program; requires district school boards participating in program to provide certain funding allocations; provides additional authority & responsibilities of principal of participating school; provides appropriation. APPROPRIATION: \$910,000.00. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

#### ***HB 0585 Relating to Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students Burgess***

Instruction for Homebound and Hospitalized Students: Requires school districts to provide instruction to homebound or hospitalized students; provides for student eligibility, methods of providing instruction to homebound or hospitalized students, & initiation of services. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

Legislative Update Continued on Page 7

**Legislative Update Continued**

**HB 1305 Relating to Student Health** *Eagle*

Student Health: Revises definition of “authorized entity”; authorizes public school or private school to receive for free or purchase at fair market value or at reduced prices supply of epinephrine auto-injectors from certain entities. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/09/16 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

**HB 5001 Relating to General Appropriations Act** Appropriations Committee

General Appropriations Act: Provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2016, & ending June 30, 2017, & supplemental appropriations for period ending June 30, 2016, to pay salaries & other expenses, capital outlay—buildings & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of various agencies of state government. APPROPRIATION: \$79,980,696,121.00 Effective Date: Not Specified  
03/11/16 HOUSE Ordered engrossed, then enrolled

**HB 5003 Relating to Implementing the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act** Appropriations Committee

Implementing the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act: Implements specific appropriations of the General Appropriations Act for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 SENATE Ordered engrossed, then enrolled

**HB 5005 Relating to State-administered Retirement Systems** Appropriations Committee

State-administered Retirement Systems: Revises required employer retirement contribution rates for members of certain membership classes & subclasses of FRS; revises employer assessment to offset costs of administering investment plan & providing educational services; provides finding of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 HOUSE Ordered engrossed, then enrolled

**HB 7019 Relating to Postsecondary Access and Affordability** Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee

Postsecondary Access and Affordability: Specifies that instructional material costs are not included in tuition for certain online programs; requires BOG & SBE to submit annual report on college affordability; revises provisions relating to textbook & instructional materials affordability; requires certain universities & institutions to provide public notice relating to tuition and fees; & revises provisions relating to tuition differential. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/10/16 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

**HB 7029 Relating to School Choice** Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

School Choice: Revises provisions relating to charter schools, virtual education, Credit Acceleration Program, FEEP, educator professional development, & charter school capital outlay funding; creates High Impact Charter Network & Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 HOUSE Ordered engrossed, then enrolled

**HB 7053 Relating to Child Care and Development Block Grant Program** Education Committee

Child Care and Development Block Grant Program: Expands list of entities that have access to child abuse records for approving providers of school readiness services; requires school readiness program providers to provide DCF & local licensing agencies with access for inspection purposes; requires certain child care providers to submit affidavit of compliance with licensure requirements of ch. 402, F.S., & federal law; provides criteria for exemption from disqualification for employment with school readiness program provider; revises duties of OEL; revises provisions relating to child & parent eligibility for school readiness programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 HOUSE Ordered engrossed, then enrolled

**SB 7076 Relating to Legislature** Ethics and Elections

Legislature; Fixing the date for convening the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law  
03/08/16 SENATE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

**BILLS PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR**

**HB 0189 Relating to Teacher Certification** *Diaz (M)*

Teacher Certification: Provides alternative requirements for earning professional educator certificate covering certain grades. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/26/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 0229 Relating to Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools** *Geller*

Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools: Requiring each school district to review its bullying and harassment policy at specified intervals; requiring each school principal to implement the bullying and harassment policy in a certain manner and integrate it with the school’s bullying prevention and intervention program; providing a short title for chapter 2010-217, Laws of Florida, relating to requirements for health education curricula and district school board policies on teen dating violence and abuse, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/10/16 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

Legislative Update Continued

**HB 0249 Relating to Culinary Education Programs Moskowitz**

Culinary Education Programs: Provides for applicability of DOH sanitation rules to licensed culinary education program; permits culinary education program with public food service establishment license to obtain alcoholic beverage license under certain conditions. Effective Date: July 1, 2016

03/11/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/26/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 0373 Relating to Mental Health Counseling Interns Burgess**

Mental Health Counseling Interns: Revises mental health intern registration requirements; revises requirements for supervision of registered interns; deletes specified education & experience requirements; establishes validity period & provides for expiration of intern registrations; requires licensed mental health professional to be on premises when registered intern provides services in clinical social work, marriage & family therapy, & mental health counseling; deletes clinical experience requirement for such registered interns; deletes provision requiring that certain registered interns meet educational requirements for licensure. Effective Date: July 1, 2016

03/09/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/24/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 0439 Relating to Mental Health Services in the Criminal Justice System McBurney**

Mental Health Services in the Criminal Justice System: Expanding eligibility for military veterans and servicemembers court programs; authorizing the creation of treatment-based mental health court programs; creating the Forensic Hospital Diversion Pilot Program; authorizing courts to order certain offenders on probation or community control to postadjudicatory mental health court programs, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2016

03/11/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/26/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 0701 Relating to Art in the Capitol Competition Lee Jr. (L)**

Art in the Capitol Competition: Creates the "Art in the Capitol Competition" for students in specified grades; provides procedures for student participation, notification, & selection & display of winning submissions. Effective Date: July 1, 2016

03/09/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/24/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 0793 Relating to Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program O'Toole**

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program: Provides that initial award period & renewal period for students who are unable to accept initial award immediately after high school due to specific obligations begins upon completion of obligation; requires student, as prerequisite for certain awards, to identify social or civic issue or professional area of interest & develop specified plan; creates Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award; provides appropriation. APPROPRIATION: \$66,468.00. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

03/09/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/24/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 0837 Relating to John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program Bileca**

John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program: Provides certain students enrolled in John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program are exempt from specific provisions & scholarship awards are not subject to specified funding calculations; creates transition-to-work program for specific students enrolled in program; provides for requirements & participation. Effective Date: July 1, 2016

03/11/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/26/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 1033 Relating to Information Technology Security Artiles**

Information Technology Security; Revising the membership of the Technology Advisory Council to include a cybersecurity expert; revising the duties of the Agency for State Technology; providing for the establishment of computer security incident response teams within state agencies; requiring the agency to establish an information technology policy for certain state contracts, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2016

03/10/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/25/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 1039 Relating to Babcock Ranch Community Independent Special District, Charlotte and Lee Counties Caldwell**

Babcock Ranch Community Independent Special District, Charlotte and Lee Counties: Expands district boundaries of Babcock Ranch Community Independent Special District to include areas of Lee County; requires referendum. Effective Date: upon approval by a majority vote of the owners of land within the district, including land in Charlotte and Lee Counties

03/11/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/26/16 to act on this bill)

**HB 1147 Relating to Character-development Instruction Latvala (C)**

Character-development Instruction: Requires character-development programs to provide certain instruction to students in grades 9-12. Effective Date: July 1, 2016

03/11/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/26/16 to act on this bill)

## Legislative Update Continued

### **HB 1365 Relating to Competency-Based Education Pilot Program** *Rodrigues (R)*

Competency-Based Education Pilot Program: Creates Competency-Based Education Pilot Program; provides for program participation, application requirements, exemption from specified rules, student funding, & duties of DOE. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/11/16 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor has until 03/26/16 to act on this bill)

## **BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW**

### **SB 0672 Relating to Educational Options** *Gaetz (D)*

Educational Options; Creating the “Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act”; establishing student eligibility requirements for enrollment in the program; establishing the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities; establishing a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship for certain qualified students; authorizing certain school districts and charter schools to be eligible to receive incentive payments for implementing a standard student attire policy that meets certain criteria, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$93,200,000.00 Effective Date: 7/1/2016  
01/21/16 Approved by Governor, Chapter No. 2016-2

### **HB 0719 Relating to Education Personnel** *Spano*

Education Personnel: Revises provisions relating to mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, & abuse, confidentiality of reports & records in cases of child abuse or neglect, teacher recruitment & retention, educator liability insurance, Education Practices Commission, & complaints against teachers & administrators; requires DOE to approve school leader preparation programs; provides program requirements. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
03/10/16 Approved by Governor, Chapter No. 2016-58

### **HB 7003 Relating to Individuals with Disabilities** *State Affairs Committee*

Individuals with Disabilities: Establishes Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities within DFS; requires department to develop & implement program in consultation with specified stakeholders; requires qualified public depository to participate in Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities; creates “Employment First Act”; requires specified state agencies & organizations to develop & implement interagency cooperative agreement; requires DEO, in consultation with other entities, to create Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2016  
01/21/16 Approved by Governor, Chapter No. 2016-3

### **SB 7016 Relating to Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** *Military and Veterans Affairs,* *Space, and Domestic Security*

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; Providing for payment of annual dues for the compact; repealing s. 2 of chapter 2013-20, Laws of Florida; abrogating the future repeal of provisions relating to the compact; providing for contingent retroactive operation, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect April 9, 2016, or if this act fails to become law until after that date, it shall take effect upon becoming a law and operate retroactively to April 9, 2016  
03/09/16 Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2016-34

## ***A Prayer for America***

*Father in Heaven,  
We, the people, in the  
land of the free and  
the home of the brave,  
desperately need You.  
Oh that we would leave our ways  
of seeking to be blessed  
and instead seek to bless others.  
We beg you for Your guidance and wisdom  
for our leaders.  
We ask You to protect our land  
from enemies, both within and without.  
And we praise you for the blood of Your Son.  
May Your plan be the desire of our nation.*

*Amen.*

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES  
MARCH 2016



*Hugs! Isn't it nice to be a Lee Republican Woman Federated woman?*



*Such a pretty table!*



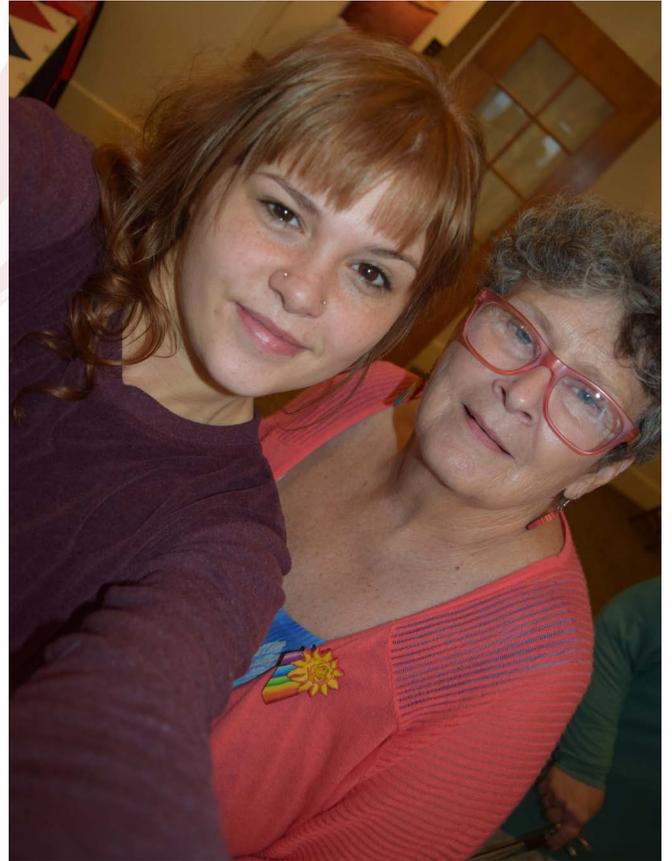
*Other? Our crazy photographer will take a picture of anything that sits still for 2 seconds!*



*Blake Chapman, State Insurance Agent, left with Chris Quackenbush, Candidate for Lee County School Board*



*Frances Keogh, Lee Republican Women's Club*



*Jessica Armstrong, LRWF Photographer, shows Sharon Gibson, Membership Chair, how to take a selfie!*



*Cindy, above and Janet, right...*





*Mary Snyder, Newsletter chairwoman and Judi Cabrera, LRWF Chaplin.*



*Eli Mansour our RPOF Regional Coordinator talks with State Representative Dane Eagle.*



*TEA ANYONE???*



*The LRWF DIRECTORIES are here!!!!  
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*Gail Langner, Social Media Chairwoman, left and Doris Cortese, LRWF President, right...just being happy together*



*Missi Lastra, founding member and President of Republican Women of Cape Coral Federated*



*Dane Eagle, Florida State Representative, tells us what's happening in Tallahassee!*



*Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R), current Lieutenant Governor of Florida and Candidate for the U.S. Senate from the state of Florida.*