

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Americanism: Margaret Windhausen
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: Missi Lastra
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

FEBRUARY 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 and
ask her how you can get involved!**

**ATTENTION:
MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT
PAID THEIR DUES BY THE
FEBRUARY 8TH MEETING
WILL NOT BE LISTED IN OUR
2016 CLUB DIRECTORY.**

DENA DECAMP

From Chicago, IL, Dena moved with her family to Polk County, FL at six years of age.

In 2008 Dena served on the board of RWC Lakeland, Federated as 2nd Vice President and became campaign headquarters volunteer coordinator. Also in 2008, Dena won the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Republican Women's Club. From 2009 to 2013 she became President of the RWC.

Dena became 1st Vice Chairman of the Republican Party of Polk County and served from 2008 to 2010. She sponsored three Tea Party rallies 2009-2011, was Team Leader for Marco Rubio for U.S. Senate, became chair for the Republican Party of Polk County Campaign Headquarters in 2010 and in 2009 became District Representative for the Florida Committee Chair in 2011 and Member at Large in 2012 and then was



*Dena DeCamp
President FFRW*

promoted to 2nd Vice President. In 2013 Dena was elected to 1st VP of the FFRW.

In 2010 Dena was hired by the RPOF to manage the campaign HQ, Romney for President and three top satellite offices in Polk County.

In 2014 Governor Rick Scott presented Dena with the Republican Party of Florida Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2015 Dena was elected President of the Florida Federation of Republican Women for 2016-17.

Dena worked her way through Polk Community College and Florida Southern College while running three uniform stores in Lakeland from 1986 until closing the business in 2004 and opening a successful custom embroidery shop and an online store called Republican Shoppe.

She loves to read and sail and is married to Dr. O. Nelson DeCamp, Jr.



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*

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, February 8th, at the beautiful Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers.

February's keynote speaker will be Dena DeCamp, President of the Florida Federation of Republican Women. She will be speaking on our coming year and how winning the White House is a team effort.

For the meal you will have home-made meat lasagna with a house salad and rolls or cashew crusted tilapia with fruit salsa, herb tossed rice, sauteed spinach and rolls.

- \$25 Inclusive
- 5:15 PM Social Time / Dinner and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 2/4/16 *by noon*

Make reservations with Wren Morefield by calling 270-210-1284 or emailing wrenspet@hotmail.com.

You may pay online with credit card by going to <http://leerepublicanwomen.com/product/lrwf-dinner-meeting-february-8-2016-510-pm-710-pm-copy/>

**Remember, a reservation made
is a reservation paid!**

**Everyone MUST check in at the
reservation table!**

*March's speakers will be
Lee County Sheriff's Candidate Forum*

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*

Happy 30th Birthday! That's right – February 8, 2016 our club will celebrate at our dinner meeting with a 30th Birthday Party. There will be special speakers, surprise presentations and much more! Make sure you go to www.leerepublicanwomen.com and make your reservation today! I'm excited to celebrate our first 30 years and look forward to the next 30 years of success and growth.

February also means that we are only a month away from the March 15th Presidential Primary. The future of our country, as we knew it, is at stake! I urge you to choose a candidate in this crucial election and work to support them.

If you'd like, you may contact Kerri Tonkin who is our Campaign and Elections Chair. Tell her the candidate of your choice and she will see that you are contacted by the appropriate Lee County Campaign Chair. Kerri.tonkin@gmail.com or (907) 321-0419.

We as women play an integral part in the election of our candidates and the Republican Party needs us!

Doris Cortese, President LRWF

*Thanks to Lizbeth for sponsoring a
Salvation Army Benefit this past month...
raising awareness to issues
in our community.*

MEMBER CANDIDATE OF THE MONTH

Lizbeth Benacquisto is a conservative leader serving the people of Florida. First elected to the Florida Senate in 2010, Benacquisto currently represents Southwest Florida in the 30th district. Senator Benacquisto was named the Majority Leader for the Republican caucus in the Florida Senate in Fall of 2012, after serving as the Deputy Majority Leader during the previous session. Additionally, she was appointed to be the Vice Chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, helping manage how taxpayer dollars are spent. For the past two sessions she has served as the Chair of the important Banking and Insurance Committee. She sits on a number of other significant committees in the Florida Senate including Education, Rules, and Judiciary.

Since her election to the Florida Legislature, Senator Benacquisto has maintained her focus on good public policy, sponsoring legislation like the Andrew Widman Act to protect law enforcement officers and keep our streets safe, the Rape Kit bill this year which addressed making sure victims of sexual assault can bring their attacker to justice, and the Military Funeral Protection bill to protect those heroes who died in the line of service's families from having to deal with protests. In the 2013 session she championed the "Cancer Treatment Fairness Act" to help cancer patients across the state receive access to life saving medications.

Senator Benacquisto has been a Florida resident for more than 35 years. Her son Austin is a Junior at Washington and Lee University, and her daughter Gabriella is a Junior at Fort Myers High School. Senator Benacquisto graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management.

In 2012 the Republican State Leadership Committee announced her appointment as an advisory board member to the "Right Women, Right Now" campaign to recruit, support and elect new Republican women candidates to state level offices across the country. Her accomplishments in public policy have been honored by organizations in Florida and across the nation. Recent honors include being named the Boys and Girls Club of Lee County Children's Advocate of the Year, PACE Center for Girls' Senator of the Year, Southwest Florida Library Champion, as well as being awarded an "A" rating from business groups such as the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Florida, and Associated Builders and Contractors. Lizbeth was selected by the FFRW as a "Women to Watch" in 2014.



*Lizbeth Benacquisto
Florida State Senator,
Senate Majority Leader*

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

Thank you to all the full, associate, and student members that have paid their 2016 dues. You made my job much easier.

To members who have not renewed, **THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST LRWF NEWSLETTER AND YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN OUR 2016 CLUB DIRECTORY.** Feel free to call me, Sharon Gibson, 239-362-3042, if you cannot remember if you paid or not...I will check our roster and let you know. Right now, we have 45 full members who have not renewed for 2016. If you are not renewing, it would be appreciated if you could drop me an email to let me know at gibsonsharon@comcast.net.

Your membership committee is excited to be planning a club social event for 2016....keep tuned for more information. Judy Royal has volunteered to chair this subcommittee for LRWF.

I am sorry that a few membership renewal checks did not reach our club mailbox and appreciate those members who remailed checks and renewal applications.

I hope to have a 2016 Theme for our Membership Program and am attending the FFRW meeting in late January so may pick up some new ideas from the membership workshop. I am excited to chat with members from other clubs and find out just what they do to attract and retain members.

2016 is election year and it is important for our group to support our local, state and national candidates. Remember to invite any new friends or new neighbors to our program meetings...they may just find that this group is what they want to belong to in 2016 to elect a Republican President!!!

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Jane Hersch
20340 Calice Court – Unit 1503
Estero, FL 33928-1609
Phone: 239-948-0003
janehersch@comcast.net

STUDENT MEMBERS

Tory Renza
2605 49th Street West
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971-4714
Phone: 304-906-9234
secretaryswflyr@gmail.com

ADDRESS CHANGE

Judy Royale
10979 Longwing Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33912-9146
phone: 239-851-3500
DRoyalGAT@aol.com

CURRENT TOTALS

Full members	130
Associate members	24
Student members	2
Total	156

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History month. Encourage members to wear your Paint the State Red pin. It's a conversation starter. Reach out and engage throughout the community and remind everyone to Vote their Values!

MONTHLY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Lee Republican Women Federated are members of the Hispanic Chamber. Wear RED and let's have lunch! It's a great opportunity to share information about LRWF and invite someone to our next lunch meeting. The Chamber lunches are at Cantina Laredo at Belltower. The next dates are: Feb 3 & 17 and March 2 & 16.

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Jeanne Dozier, LRWF Legislative Chair

Hot issues to look out for during the 2016 Legislative Session.

The Florida Legislature will convene on Tuesday, January 12th. During the sixty day session your Legislatures have a host of issues that they will have to address. We know that our Southwest Delegation is up to the challenge.

Here is a sneak peek at some of the issues our legislators will face. In the area of Health Care, they will face dealing with the rising cost of Medicaid which is in part due to the increased cost to related prescription drugs. Our Legislature will again be looking for ways to decrease or at least slow down these rising costs. There are also several House backed proposals including an expansion of ambulatory care and recovery care centers. These care facilities handle smaller surgeries and the Legislature is looking at allowing them to cover and treat more conditions while allowing patients to stay longer in order to avoid higher hospital fees and cost. We could also see an expansion of Nurses and Physicians Assistants scope of medical authority to prescribe medications under Senator Denise Grimsley's SB 152. This subject is not new to the Legislature and has faced opposition from the Florida Medical Association in the past.

Our Governor Rick Scott is calling for more transparency in hospital billing while accusing some hospitals of price gouging patients. We need to keep our ear to the ground on these Health Care issues as they could have an impact on each of us.

Education will again be on the front burner as this is a topic that affects all students and has an indirect impact on the Florida economy. Once again, we see Charter Schools are looking to receive local tax dollars when it comes to school maintenance and construction. There have already been a lot of Charter school reform bills that have started moving in the House. Rep. Manny Diaz wants to see common Charter School Contracts to include language that would require these schools to provide more financial disclosure. School accountability and cut scores should prove to bring forth a lot of debate. How schools should be graded is an ongoing discussion. Large companies look at a state's school systems before they decide to relocate to a state and the decisions that are made in this regard could have a long lasting impact on the future of the growth of the Florida economy.

Senate President Andy Gardiner has weighed in on Exceptional Student Education and has filed several bills that could have an impact on students with special needs. Senator Don Gaetz has filed legislation which would expand parent's ability to use tax dollars for private school. The Senate Education Chairman wants to see the Best and Brightest program changed to provide \$10,000 to teachers who performed well on the SAT. This bill is already seeing a lot of opposition from teachers saying it is unfair and would reward teachers who took the test years ago.

Gambling should bring a lot of banter from the capital to the floors of the legislative chambers as Governor Rick Scott has already signed a \$3 billion dollar gambling deal with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Let's not leave out the debate over Marijuana and the two constitutional amendments that could have an impact on this topic.

This is just a sample of what we need to keep on our radar for the session. The session is promising to be filled with lots of legislation discussions that should keep us all on the edge of our seats for that sixty day period.

MORE...LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

On January 12, 2016 the Florida legislative session opened for the new year. Governor Rick Scott address the Senate and the House in a joint session. His comments were light, but well meaning. After the introduction of his lovely wife of 44 years, he proceeded to share what some of his priorities would be for the coming year. Full funding for people with "special needs" is very important to him, and he was glad that this would be accomplished this year. A pilot program was started this year to provide help for persons with substance abuse and mental illness. He also stressed that we needed to assist our citizens to achieve the American Dream but stressed it is not the role of the government to be the first responder to these needs but instead prosperity is created by ingenuity and hard work of the Florida citizens. The way the government can help is by creating jobs which will help the weakest, our poorest and our most disadvantaged Florida neighbors. He wants to see Florida diversify our economy and look to bringing more businesses into the state. This will grow jobs and grow our economy. Bringing new businesses can be done by cutting taxes to entice businesses to relocate. He urged legislators to support one billion tax cut package to cut costs for the manufacturers, innovators and visionaries. These businesses will then use this money to do research to expand their businesses and create more jobs. Jokingly, he told them that his three favorite topics were "jobs, jobs, jobs!"

He then transitioned into a topic that affects us all...the subject of safety, not only in Florida, but throughout the world. Governor Scott then stated the hate-filled cold-blooded events of recent months makes it clear that we live in a fallen world, where terror sometimes reigns and evil seems unbridled. We've seen people at a concert brutally murdered in Paris, healthcare workers massacred in San Bernadino, and a Floridian beheaded by Isis just months before. He went on to tell everyone that the next president that we elect needs to immediately eliminate the threat of Isis to the United States of America. He told everyone that over the past few months he had reflected and realized that we need to honor those who serve so that we may enjoy our freedoms. He then introduced Capt. Brian McDowell. an active guard reserve member of the Florida National Guard. Brian received the purple heart after receiving schrapnel and burn injuries to his entire body from an IED explosion. He asked the group to applaud Brian and his wife Anna who is also an active guard reserve member of the Florida reserve. He asked all active service members. veterans and first responders to stand so they could be honored as well.

As he closed, he told everyone that he would be taking his bus tour across the state which started Wednesday, January 13th. He asked everyone to join him in making a lasting legacy in lives of the people across the Great State of Florida. His parting words were "Let's make Florida first for jobs together. God bless each of you and God bless the Great State of Florida.

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 *Silpada*

The Classic Face

A Economical B&B Income Tax, Inc.

WorldVentures

Nature's Sunshine

**FEATURED BUSINESS
OF THE MONTH!!!**

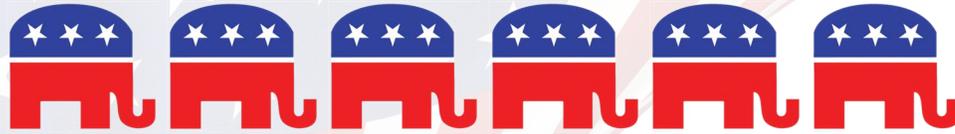


WORLDVENTURES

Missi Lastra
Independent Travel Agent



Kathleen Passidomo
Candidate for State Senate



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 Fitzenhagen
Florida House of Representatives



Mike Scott
Lee County Sheriff

TAX PLANS - KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

(The following is an FYI and not an endorsement of any candidate. All explanations are taken directly from the websites of each individual candidate. Only the top four polling candidates are listed...based on Real Clear Politics as of 1/17/15.)

TRUMP: When the income tax was first introduced, just one percent of Americans had to pay it. It was never intended as a tax most Americans would pay. The Trump plan eliminates the income tax for over 73 million households. 42 million households that currently file complex forms to determine they don't owe any income taxes will now file a one page form saving them time, stress, uncertainty and an average of \$110 in preparation costs. Over 31 million households get the same simplification and keep on average nearly \$1,000 of their hard-earned money.

For those Americans who will still pay the income tax, the tax rates will go from the current seven brackets to four simpler, fairer brackets that eliminate the marriage penalty and the AMT while providing the lowest tax rate since before World War II:

INCOME TAX RATE	LONG TERM CAP GAINS/ DIVIDENDS RATE	SINGLE FILERS	MARRIED FILERS	HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS
0%	0%	\$0 to \$25,000	\$0 to \$50,000	\$0 to \$37,500
10%	0%	\$25,001 to \$50,000	\$50,001 to \$100,000	\$37,501 to \$75,000
20%	15%	\$50,001 to \$150,000	\$100,001 to \$300,000	\$75,001 to \$225,000
25%	20%	\$150,001 and up	\$300,001 and up	\$225,001 and up

With this huge reduction in rates, many of the current exemptions and deductions will become unnecessary or redundant. Those within the 10% bracket will keep all or most of their current deductions. Those within the 20% bracket will keep more than half of their current deductions. Those within the 25% bracket will keep fewer deductions. Charitable giving and mortgage interest deductions will remain unchanged for all taxpayers.

Simplifying the tax code and cutting every American's taxes will boost consumer spending, encourage savings and investment, and maximize economic growth.

Business Tax Reform To Encourage Jobs And Spur Economic Growth: Too many companies – from great American brands to innovative startups – are leaving America, either directly or through corporate inversions. The Democrats want to outlaw inversions, but that will never work. Companies leaving is not the disease, it is the symptom. Politicians in Washington have let America fall from the best corporate tax rate in the industrialized world in the 1980's (thanks to Ronald Reagan) to the worst rate in the industrialized world. That is unacceptable. Under the Trump plan, America will compete with the world and win by cutting the corporate tax rate to 15%, taking our rate from one of the worst to one of the best.

This lower tax rate cannot be for big business alone; it needs to help the small businesses that are the true engine of our economy. Right now, freelancers, sole proprietors, unincorporated small businesses and pass-through entities are taxed at the high personal income tax rates. This treatment stifles small businesses. It also stifles tax reform because efforts to reduce loopholes and deductions available to the very rich and special interests end up hitting small businesses and job creators as well. The Trump plan addresses this challenge head on with a new business income tax rate within the personal income tax code that matches the 15% corporate tax rate to help these businesses, entrepreneurs and freelancers grow and prosper.

These lower rates will provide a tremendous stimulus for the economy – significant GDP growth, a huge number of new jobs and an increase in after-tax wages for workers.

CRUZ: *Under the Simple Flat Tax, the current seven rates of personal income tax will collapse into a single low rate of 10 percent. For a family of four, the first \$36,000 will be tax-free.* The Child Tax Credit will remain in place, and the Simple Flat Tax Plan expands and modernizes the Earned Income Tax Credit with greater anti-fraud and pro-marriage reforms. As a result, the Simple Flat Tax will ensure that low- and middle-income Americans have greater opportunities – not only through minimal taxes, but also through better, high-paying jobs that the Simple Flat Tax will generate. Under the plan, deductions for charitable contributions and mortgage interest payments are preserved.

The IRS will cease to exist as we know it, there will be zero targeting of individuals based on their faith or political beliefs, and there will be no way for thousands of agents to manipulate the system.

For businesses, the corporate income tax will be eliminated. It will be replaced by a simple Business Flat Tax at a single 16 percent rate. The current payroll tax system will be abolished, while maintaining full funding for Social Security and Medicare.

The convoluted tax code will be replaced with new rules of the game – so simple, in fact, that individuals and families could file their taxes on a postcard or phone app. The Death Tax will be eliminated. The Alternative Minimum Tax will be eliminated. The tax on profits earned abroad will be eliminated. And of course, the Obamacare taxes will be eliminated. Also gone will be the unending loopholes in the current code, the stacks of depreciation schedules for businesses, and the multi-tiered rates on income and investments. Under the Simple Flat Tax, the Internet remains free from taxes.

The results will be truly dramatic. According to the well-respected Tax Foundation, the Simple Flat Tax will deliver an economic boost of tremendous magnitude. In the first decade, the Simple Flat Tax will:

- Boost Gross Domestic Product by 13.9 percent above what is currently projected.
- Increase wages by 12.2 percent.
- Create 4,861,000 additional jobs.

TAX PLANS - KNOW THE DIFFERENCE (CONTINUED)

(The following is an FYI and not an endorsement of any candidate. All explanations are taken directly from the websites of each individual candidate. Only the top four polling candidates are listed...based on Real Clear Politics as of 1/17/15.)

RUBIO: Under current law, corporate investments are taxed twice. First, these investments are taxed under the corporate income tax code when they produce returns. Then, when returns from the corporation investment are moved from the corporation to the investor, typically as capital gains or dividends, they are taxed again.

While corporations face double taxation, businesses organized as pass-through entities face higher top marginal tax rates than corporations, as they can be taxed at the new 39.6% rate. These companies also pay an assortment of other taxes that are not applicable to corporations. Many small and medium sized businesses are taxed as pass-through entities rather than as c-corporations.

2014 TAXATION OF PASS THROUGH ENTITIES

RATE	SINGLE FILERS	MARRIED JOINT FILERS	HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD FILERS
10%	\$0 to \$9,075	\$0 to \$18,150	\$0 to \$12,950
15%	\$9,076 to \$36,900	\$18,151 to \$73,800	\$12,951 to \$49,400
25%	\$36,901 to \$89,350	\$73,801 to \$148,850	\$49,401 to \$127,550
28%	\$89,351 to \$186,350	\$148,851 to \$226,850	\$127,551 to \$206,600
33%	\$186,351 to \$405,100	\$226,851 to \$405,100	\$206,601 to \$405,100
35%	\$405,101 to 406,750	\$405,101 to 457,600	\$405,101 to \$432,200
39.6%	\$406,751+	\$457,601+	\$432,201+

2014 TAXATION OF C CORPORATIONS

TAXABLE INCOME OVER	NOT OVER	TAX RATE
\$0	\$50,000	15%
\$50,000	\$75,000	25%
\$75,000	\$100,000	34%
\$100,000	\$335,000	39%
\$335,000	\$10,000,000	34%
\$10,000,000	\$15,000,000	35%
\$15,000,000	\$18,333,333	38%
\$18,333,333	35%

This plan eliminates double taxation for all business income. C corporations would pay a 25 percent corporate tax. Since the businesses' income would be taxed at the entity level, dividends and capital gains on stock would not be subject to additional tax at the individual level. Shareholders would receive an annual informational statement indicating how much corporate tax had been paid on their behalf. As under the current tax system, pass-through entities (partnerships, LLCs and S corporations) and sole proprietorships would not be subject to entity - level tax. Instead, this income would be reported as taxable income on the owners' tax return. The maximum tax rate applicable to pass-through entity income would be 25 percent.

This maximum tax rate would be statutorily linked to the tax rate on C corporations, and would be referred to as the business tax rate.

In order to prevent abusive misallocation of labor income as business income, this plan also creates strong rules that preserve current tax arrangements for partnerships and independent contractors while discouraging abusive reclassifications. We also require that reasonable compensation be paid by pass-through entities to owners that work for the business.

INCOME THRESHOLD	PASS-THROUGH RATE INDIVIDUAL FILERS	PASS-THROUGH RATE JOINT FILERS	CORPORATE RATE
\$0 to \$75,000	15%	15%	25%
75,001 to \$150,000	25%	15%	25%
150,001 and higher \$	25%	25%	25%

TAX PLANS - KNOW THE DIFFERENCE (CONTINUED)

(The following is an FYI and not an endorsement of any candidate. All explanations are taken directly from the websites of each individual candidate. Only the top four polling Republican candidates are listed...based on Real Clear Politics as of 1/17/15.)

CARSON: Diagnosis: A Tax System That Is Too Complex, Discourages Innovation and Stifles Economic Growth. Our complicated web of tax laws and regulations has grown to an absurd size of 10 million words. Last year, Americans wasted more than \$230 billion and spent 6 billion hours, just to prepare our taxes. The tax code is riddled with special interest loopholes that incentivize taxpayers to “game” the system, and rewards those who do so skillfully.

The maze of rules, double-taxation of dividends and oppressive 35 percent federal corporate tax rate – the highest in the developed world – encourages U.S. companies to keep their profits and jobs overseas.

Prognosis: Without Change, Our Economy Will Continue to Suffer. Our current system reduces incentives for entrepreneurial ventures and investment, and at the same time inhibits the growth of a vibrant economy. Unless drastic reforms are made, the American people will continue to suffer the consequences.

Treatment Plan: Repeal the Entire Tax Code and Replace It With a True 14.9 Percent Flat Tax

- Replace the tax code with a true flat tax – no deductions, tax shelters or loopholes.
- Tax all income at a uniform 14.9 percent rate.
- To protect those rising from poverty, apply the flat tax only to income above 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). (For example, a family of four will not pay the 14.9 percent tax on their first \$36,375 of income.)
- Treat everyone in America as citizen-owners and require those whose income is at or below 150 percent of the FPL to make a de minimis tax payment annually.
- Tax income only once: no more double taxation of capital gains, dividends and interest income at the personal level.
- Eliminate deductions for home mortgage interest, charitable giving and state and local taxes. The overwhelming majority of Americans do not benefit from these itemized deductions.
- Eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). Under the current tax system, the AMT forces middle-class Americans to calculate their tax liability twice and punishes them by requiring them to pay the larger of the two tax bills.
- Abolish the death tax in its entirety.

THE CLINTON TAX PLAN - KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

CLINTON: Hillary believes the defining economic challenge of our time is raising incomes for hardworking Americans.

Too many families are working harder and harder, but still not getting ahead. Our country is standing again, but we’re not yet running the way we should be. From her first day in office to the last, Hillary Clinton will fight for you and for more take-home pay so you can get ahead and stay ahead.

Hillary understands that in order to raise incomes, we need strong growth, fair growth, and long-term growth. And she has a plan to get us there.

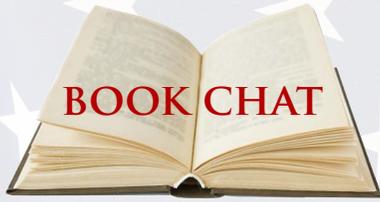
Strong growth: Hillary will invest in infrastructure, clean energy, and scientific and medical research to create jobs and strengthen our economy. And she’ll provide tax relief to working families and small businesses. That’s how we’ll move toward a full employment economy that creates jobs, pushes businesses to compete over workers, and raises incomes.

- Encourage business to share their profits with their employees
- Expand overtime
- Raise the minimum wage
- Fight wage theft
- Strengthen the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
- Support unions and collective bargaining
- Reform our tax code so the wealthiest pay their fair share
- Expand early learning
- Invest in students and teachers
- Provide pathways into the middle class

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Looking at the above plan that Hillary will bring to our businesses to help people...profit sharing, expanding overtime and raising the minimum wage will all **hurt business** and cause inflation which **hurts workers** and especially will hurt those who are retired and on a fixed income. Hurting businesses hurts workers. Fighting wage theft, I suppose would be okay, however I am not sure of the cost of doing so. Strengthening Obamacare is a no brainer! It’s costing everyone more than it is helping. Supporting unions was good at one time, but the corruption now is so rampid that I don’t see that as a positive. If Warren Buffet, who hides multi-millions in legal tax loop holes, supports this plan, I’m not sure that the wealthy will really pay their fair share.*

Expanding early learning, investing in students and teachers and providing pathways into the middle class are all noble ventures, but I am not sure what this has to do with reducing our taxes. I do not believe that this is a tax plan at all. Just more of the same.

Hillary will NOT reduce our taxes. Economic growth therefore will NOT happen.



Ladies, please note the change of the date for the Book Chat in February. *We will now be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.* This will be a permanent change unless there is a problem. We will be meeting at the home of Cheryl Harris, on Wednesday, February 3, from 2:00-4:00 PM. Please make arrangements to see the movie, 13 Hours. This is the movie about the overtaking of the American Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. The movie depicts the harrowing experiences of those who survived and those who died. We will discuss this movie at our Book Chat. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Please call Cheryl to let her know you are coming.

For anyone who is interested, we will be reading, *Unlikable, The Problem With Hillary*, for March 2. This is a book written by Edward Klein. Look forward to seeing you on February 3.

Cheryl Harris
 13970 Lake Mahogany Blvd. Unit 2012 (for map click here)
 Fort Myers
 239-225-7390
timcherylharris@aol.com



Look what's being raffled off in February!!!



Carmen Salomé and Christina Cook, LCREC membership chair at the LRWF and LCREC Viva Cape Coral event on January 16th. LRWF members joined LCREC in a fun community outreach event. Members handed out information and engaged potential voters in Spanish and English. Carmen thanks RPOF, LCREC, Cape Coral and Burnt Store Republican Club members for helping.



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

Website: actabuse.com

Florida Hotlines: 800.500.1119 or 888.956.7273

National Hotline: 800.799.SAFE

How Do You Paint the State Red???

Learn all you can about all candidates. Makes sure you understand their positions on everything from national security to their tax plans and everything in between. Then go work work! Call Kerri Tonkin at 907-321-0419 and ask her how you can get involved!



HILLARY

Do you remember... (author unknown)

When Bill Clinton was president, he allowed Hillary to assume authority over a health care reform. Even after threats and intimidation, she couldn't even get a vote in a democratic controlled congress. This fiasco cost the American taxpayers about \$13 million for studies, promotion, and other efforts.

Then President Clinton gave Hillary authority over selecting a female attorney general. Her first two selections were Zoe Baird and Kimba Wood – both were forced to withdraw their names from consideration.

Next she chose Janet Reno – husband Bill described her selection as “my worst mistake.” Some may not remember that Reno made the decision to gas David Koresh and the Branch Davidian religious sect in Waco, Texas resulting in dozens of deaths of women and children.

Husband Bill allowed Hillary to make recommendations for the head of the Civil Rights Commission. Lani Guanier was her selection. When a little probing led to the discovery of Ms. Guanier's radical views, her name had to be withdrawn from consideration.

Apparently a slow learner, husband Bill allowed Hillary to make some more recommendations. She chose former law partners Web Hubbel for the Justice Department, Vince Foster for the White House staff, and William Kennedy for the Treasury Department. Her selections went well: Hubbel went to prison, Foster (presumably) committed suicide, and Kennedy was forced to resign.

Many younger voters will have no knowledge of “Travelgate.” Hillary wanted to award unfettered travel contracts to Clinton friend Harry Thomason – and the White House Travel Office refused to comply. She managed to have them reported to the FBI and fired. This ruined their reputations, cost them their jobs, and caused a thirty-six month investigation. Only one employee, Billy Dale was charged with a crime, and that of the enormous crime of mixing personal and White House funds. A jury acquitted him of any crime in less than two hours.

Still not convinced of her ineptness, Hillary was allowed to recommend a close Clinton friend, Craig Livingstone, for the position of Director of White House security. When Livingstone was investigated for the improper access of about 900 FBI files of Clinton enemies (Filegate) and the widespread use of drugs by White House staff, suddenly Hillary and the president denied even knowing Livingstone, and of course, denied knowledge of drug use in the White House. Following this debacle, the FBI closed its White House Liaison Office after more than thirty years of service to seven presidents.

Next, when women started coming forward with allegations of sexual harassment and rape by Bill Clinton, Hillary was put in charge of the “bimbo eruption” and scandal defense.

Some of her more notable decisions in the debacle were:

- She urged her husband not to settle the Paula Jones lawsuit. After the Starr investigation they settled with Ms. Jones.
- She refused to release the Whitewater documents, which led to the appointment of Ken Starr as Special Prosecutor. After \$80 million dollars of taxpayer money was spent, Starr's investigation led to Monica Lewinsky, which led to Bill lying about and later admitting his affairs.
- Hillary's devious game plan resulted in Bill losing his license to practice law for 'lying under oath' to a grand jury and then his subsequent impeachment by the House of Representatives.
- Hillary avoided indictment for perjury and obstruction of justice during the Starr investigation by repeating, “I do not recall,” “I have no recollection,” and “I don't know” a total of 56 times while under oath.
- After leaving the White House, Hillary was forced to return an estimated \$200,000 in White House furniture, china, and artwork that she had stolen.

What a swell party – ready for another four or eight year of this type low-life mess? Now we are exposed to the destruction of possibly incriminating emails while Hillary was Secretary of State and the “pay to play” schemes of the Clinton Foundation – we have no idea what shoe will fall next. But to her loyal fans - “what difference does it make?”

Electing Hillary Clinton president would be like granting Satan absolution and giving him the keys to heaven!

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



Dane Eagle
Florida House of Representatives



Kevin Ruane
Mayor, Sanibel Island



Ray Rodriguez
Florida House of Representatives

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*In February 2014, I put the following quiz in the newsletter. I am putting it in the newsletter again this month because the things said below need to be known by everyone. It is essential in this election year that our black brothers and sisters KNOW that our values are their values. It is essential that they know that the Republican party is FOR black individuals. Please take the following test and **share it with your black friends.***

BLACK POLITICAL HISTORY: THE UNTOLD STORY

NOTE: All answers are "b."

1. What Party was founded as the anti-slavery Party and fought to free blacks from slavery?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
2. What was the Party of Abraham Lincoln who signed the Emancipation Proclamation that resulted in the Juneteenth celebrations that occur in black communities today?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
3. What Party passed the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution, granting blacks freedom, citizenship, and the right to vote?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
4. What Party passed the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1875, granting blacks protection from the Black Codes and prohibiting racial discrimination in public accommodations, and was the Party of most blacks prior to the 1960's, including Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
5. What was the Party of the founding fathers of the NAACP?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
6. What was the Party of President Dwight Eisenhower who sent U.S. troops to Arkansas to desegregate schools, established the Civil Rights Commission in 1958, and appointed Chief Justice Earl Warren to the U.S. Supreme Court which resulted in the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision ending school segregation?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
7. What Party, by the greatest percentage, passed the Civil Rights Acts of the 1950's and 1960's?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
8. What was the Party of President Richard Nixon who instituted the first Affirmative Action program in 1969 with the Philadelphia Plan that established goals and timetables?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party
9. What is the Party of President George W. Bush who appointed more blacks to high-level positions than any president in history and who spent record money on education, job training and health care to help black Americans prosper?
 a. Democratic Party
 b. Republican Party

BLACK POLITICAL HISTORY: THE UNTOLD STORY

NOTE: All answers are "b."

10. What Party fought to keep blacks in slavery and was the Party of the Ku Klux Klan?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party
11. What Party from 1870 to 1930 used fraud, whippings, lynching, murder, intimidation, and mutilation to get the black vote, and passed the Black Codes and Jim Crow laws which legalized racial discrimination and denied blacks their rights as citizens?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party
12. What was the Party of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Harry Truman, who rejected antilynching laws and efforts to establish a permanent Civil Rights Commission?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party
13. What was the Party of President Lyndon Johnson, who called Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "that [N-word] preacher" because he opposed the Viet Nam War; and President John F. Kennedy who voted against the 1957 Civil Rights law as a Senator, then as president opposed the 1963 March on Washington by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. after becoming president and had the FBI investigate Dr. King on suspicion of being a communist?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party
14. What is the Party of the late Senator Robert Byrd, who was a member of the Ku Klux Klan; Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, who hoisted the Confederate flag over the state capitol in South Carolina while governor; and Ted Kennedy, who called black judicial nominees "Neanderthals" while blocking their appointments?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party
15. What was the Party of President Bill Clinton who failed to fight the terrorists after the first bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, sent troops to war in Bosnia and Kosovo without Congressional approval, vetoed the Welfare Reform law twice before signing it, and refused to comply with a court order to have shipping companies develop an Affirmative Action Plan?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party
16. What is the Party of Vice President Al Gore whose father voted against the Civil Rights Acts of the 1960's, and who lost the 2000 election as confirmed by a second recount of Florida votes by the "Miami Herald" and a consortium of major news organizations and the ruling by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission that blacks were not denied the right to vote?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party
17. What Party is against school vouchers, against school prayers, and takes the black vote for granted without ever acknowledging their racist past or apologizing for trying to expand slavery, lynching blacks and passing the Black Codes and Jim Crow laws that caused great harm to blacks?
 a. Republican Party
 b. Democratic Party

(Quoted from the National Black Republican Association website from February 2014)

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES
JANUARY 2015

THE LUNCHEON



*Nona Nychyk (left) and Sharon Gibson (right) at the New Member Table.
Thanks Sharon for taking such good care of our new members!*



Our new chaplain, Judi Cabrera...leads in prayer.



*Political "Cat in the Hat" anyone?
Author Loren Spivack shows us his
political satires based on Dr. Seuss.*



Deep in thought about the political "Cat in the Hat."



County Commissioner Brian Hammon



Raquel Torres, ACT representative



Yaro Garcia, Clinical Psychologist



Yaro and Colleen!



Jeannie and friend viewing the Dr. Seuss style political books.



Linda Suter, Mindy Moran and Cheryl Harris waiting for lunch!

FFRW CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO



Carmen addresses the group!



Glo Smith, Political Consultant, tells us how to win elections!



Priscilla Grannis, President, Naples WRC, is teaching us!



Our President, Doris Cortese, passes out achievement awards!



Dena DeCamp, President FFRW, presents LRWF with the Silver Achievement award. Missi Lastra, LRWF 2nd VP, accepts the award.

Congratulations to the hard working women of LRWF!!!