

## 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  
Community Outreach: Barbara Koeplinger  
Fundraising: Rosemary Lewis  
Hospitality: Linda Loudin  
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

JANUARY 2016

*Strong Women  
for a Strong America*



Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.

**LRWF'S NEW  
CARING FOR AMERICA PROJECT**

## YAROSLABA GARCIA

Yaro Garcia has a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and is currently working on her PhD in Cognitive Psychology. She is the clinical director at Abuse Counseling and Treatment. Yaro is the President of the Southwest Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition. Since she started to chair the Regional Coalition she has assisted the coalition and other agencies in creating programs to improve and increase awareness and identification of human trafficking among law enforcement agencies and the community. In addition, Yaro treats and works with human trafficking victims every day.

Since 2009, she became a Certified Advocate of Victims of Domestic Violence with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is also a Certified Advocate of Victims of Sexual Abuse with the Florida Council Against Sexual Assault.

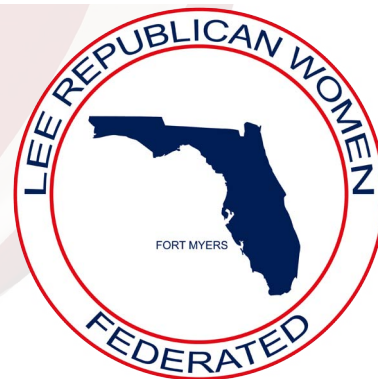
In 2012, she was awarded the Purple Heart Advocacy Award by the Florida Network of Victim Services. She also assisted in Point of Contact Point of Rescue which became a collaborative effort among Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc.



*Yaroslaba Garcia  
President, SW Florida Regional Human  
Trafficking Coalition*

She founded Slave Free SWFL which promotes community awareness of the crime. She also received the "2014 Human Trafficking Awareness Partner Award" for her work as Clinical Director of the Abuse Counseling and Treatment and as the President of the SWFL Regional Human Trafficking Coalition.

Yaro was an Expert Panel speaker in 2015 at the hearing in the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations in Washington, DC. Yaro founded and launched the Human Trafficking Hotel Outreach Project. Most recently, she assisted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in a cross county investigation called Operation Human Freedom that led to fifteen arrests of an operating sex trafficking ring in Florida announced by Pam Bondi as the largest human trafficking arrest in the history of the state.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other."*

*Voltaire (1764)*



## LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

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

January's keynote speaker will be Yaro Garcia, SW Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition and head clinician at the Abuse Counseling & Treatment (ACT). Yaro works directly with local trafficking victims.

For the meal you will have a choice of homemade tuna salad on a croissant with a cup of assorted fruit or grilled chicken and a green salad with rolls and a large cookie for dessert.

- \$22 Inclusive
- 11:15 AM Social Time / Lunch and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 1/7/16 **by noon**

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

**You may also pay online with credit card by going to <http://leerepublican-women.com/event/lrwf-january-luncheon-meeting/>**

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

*February's speakers will be Dena DeCamp, President, FFRW, Judy O'Donnell, LRWF Past President and Katharine Stoll, Student Member.*

**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*

I would like to begin by wishing each of you a happy and healthy New Year.

It goes without saying that we Republicans have a busy year ahead. Not only do we need to elect a Republican President but also a Republican in the Senate to replace Marco Rubio and also support all of our local candidates. Taking back our country doesn't happen without each one of us working together as a team, because, as we know, Florida is always a crucial state!

Because of your time and support, our club took the lead in the re-election of Governor Rick Scott. Thank you! May I again ask for you to pledge your time and support? We will need volunteers to make phone calls, door walkers and many more opportunities.

The day after the general election I know each one of us want to be able to look in the mirror and say, "I did my best! I'm so proud that we took back the country because of my efforts." Who said one person can't make a difference?

I am looking forward to working with all of you this year. Our club will grow and prosper and so will our country. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Doris Cortese, LRWF President

## LRWF MEMBER/CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

Therese Everly currently serves as a Director for the Lee Memorial Health System Board of Directors District -1. Board Liaison positions: Continuum of Care and Capital Construction Projects. Therese first ran for elected office in 2014 and won her current seat. Typically, the Lee Memorial Board of Director Seats are four year terms. Therese ran for a two year term which was created after a resignation of a Director. Therese has declared her intent to run for reelection in the General election in 2016 to serve a four year term. Working in health care for over 28 years has given Therese a broad scope of health care management experience, and a deep passion and understanding of the health care needs of our community. Prior to being elected to office she was employed by Lee Memorial health system for 25years, Florida Southwestern College, Surgical Laser Technology, and Respiratory Care of Florida. She worked as a care manager, utilization review manager, clinician, adjunct faculty, clinical supervisor, independent contractor in rehabilitation centers, medical device sales and applications. Therese's education background includes: Bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration, Associate degree - Registered Respiratory Therapist, Certification as a legal guardian, and Florida licensed realtor since 1988. Therese has sold and managed primarily residential real estates in Lee County, her license is currently held with Rossman Realty.

Therese has been a resident of Lee County for 37 years, she has been married to Todd for 26 years, and they have a daughter, Caira. Community involvement includes membership in multiple Republican organizations, Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership- Board member, Catholic Charities of Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties- advisory board, Keiser University- Allied Health Advisory board, BUPAC, Impact Initiative-Lee Memorial foundation, Ft Myers Women's Community Club, HOPE Hospice - fund raising committee. Therese states she considers it an honor and privilege to serve in elected office, if reelected she will continue to work hard, listen to the community, engage in policy that fosters quality health and wellness for all the residents of Lee county. "I would be humbled by your support and Vote in November". For further information on Therese Everly please go to [VoteThereseEverly.com](http://VoteThereseEverly.com).



*Therese Everly  
Lee Memorial Health Board*

## 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

In mid-December, a dues reminder was mailed to all members that had not paid their 2016 dues. If you received this written notice, please send in your 2016 dues immediately. Our club has to send state and national dues forward in January. If you want to be counted on our membership roster, your dues must be current. In addition, work will be started on the 2016 club yearbook....if you haven't paid dues, your name and contact information will not be listed.

Lots of new and renewing members have expressed interest in working on various committees. This information has been compiled and will be given to all chairwomen of committees. If you do not receive an email or phone call asking you to help, please give me a call. We've had a wonderful response to volunteers and we certainly want to take advantage of your willingness to help.

At the November board meeting, club social activities for 2016 were discussed. President Doris Cortese agreed to appoint a club chairman to coordinate some events for our members. This will give us an opportunity to get to know each other outside of a regular general meeting. Ideas thrown around included a wine & cheese party, movie night or girls night out. If you have ideas or suggestions, please submit them to President Cortese.

Members, please introduce yourself at the dinner table and involve the whole table in a discussion on some current topic....this will give each one a chance to talk about past experiences in politics and also grow relationships. One comment I hear about our group is that it is hard to get to know each other. If each one of us takes the initiative to speak with others and offer conversation, it will happen.

Congratulations to Carmen Salome for winning the EACH ONE, ASK ONE drawing. Two of Carmen's invited guests joined LRWF in 2015.

Sharon Gibson  
Membership Chairwoman 2016

### NEW FULL MEMBERS

Lori Fayhee  
9200 Lanthorn Way  
Estero, FL 33928-4248  
239-776-8889  
Lfoyhee@yahoo.com

Germaine Hyall  
4037 Big Pass Lane  
Punta Gorda, FL 33955-1880  
941-637-9709  
TRYHyatt@comcast.net

Judi Cabrera  
1700 Pine Valley Drive  
#322  
Fort Myers, FL 33907-8074  
213-814-8173  
judicabrera@gmail.com

### STUDENT TO FULL MEMBERS

Jessica Armstrong  
11421 Dogwood Lane  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
239-994-1610  
jessicaarmstrong71@gmail.com

### CURRENT TOTALS

Full members	157
Associate members	33
Student members	1
Total	191

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AT RISK

In 2014, a Christian woman, Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling, in the Marines was court martialed for her faith. She placed a Bible verse at her desk, "No weapon formed against me shall prosper" (Isaiah 54:17). Her commanding officer cursed at her, demanding she take it down.

When she refused, the officer threw the scripture verse in the trash. Then this U.S. Marine was court martialed. Unbelievably, a military court held that a Bible verse isn't protected "free exercise." This absurd argument was upheld on appeal. Monifa is still fighting this.

*Beware, your religious liberties may be next.*

## 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

## UNCONSTITUTIONAL LAW PROPOSED PROTECTING ISLAM

By Missi Lastra

Democrats in Congress seem to believe we need to have legislation specifically to protect those of Muslim faith living in America. Representative Donald S. Beyer, Jr. of Virginia submitted H.Res.569 - Condemning violence, bigotry, and hateful rhetoric towards Muslims in the United States. This bill doesn't just attempt to protect Muslims in America from acts of violence but also includes "hate speech" in the same context as violence, arson, vandalism and other hate crimes.

I'm not certain who in Virginia voted on and elected Mr. Beyer but I wonder if they realize he is severely uneducated on existing laws that already take care of most of his proposed bill, and the remainder of his bill is protected under the 1st Amendment. You know, the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which is that pesky document the Dems are forever attempting to undermine. After all, our forefathers created all these pesky road blocks to prevent government from shutting us up. Imagine that?

So let's chat about this monstrosity called a bill that House Dems are trying to sneakily push through during the Holidays. First, who doesn't want to protect folks from anti-religion hate crimes? Wait a minute... I believe we already have things in place for that. For example, the first line of the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution begins with "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Is it possible that our founding Fathers actually put provisions in place to protect our religious freedoms? (I recognize the stupidity of this is dripping through my sarcasm.)

But there is more, the United States Justice Department Civil Rights Division protects religious freedom in the areas of employment, public housing and education discrimination, access to public accommodations and facilities and land-use issues. State laws may vary somewhat but all have some hate crime provision. Current statutes permit federal prosecution of hate crimes committed on the basis of a person's protected class of race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. And I must mention the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 which adds further protections and penalties for acts committed against persons of protected classes because of their respective classes.

I believe I have made it abundantly clear that we take necessary measures in this country to protect the liberties and unjust persecution of those of all religions and therefore have no need for "extra" provisions for a specific religion. I would like to go even farther to say that we do not need to specify any single religion above others as to place higher importance of one over another. Based on the FBI's hate crime statistics, 60.3% of hate crime victims were from anti-Jewish bias versus 13.7% which were victims of anti-Islam bias. It makes me wonder what Mr. Beyer's motivations may be since a Jewish person is five times more likely to be a victim of a hate crime than a Muslim.

Now let's address the highly controversial subject of "hate speech" and it's relation to the 1st Amendment's "....." or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." Hate speech seemed to get more attention with anti-Semitism and can be defined as speech directed at a historically repressed religious or racial minority with the intent to insult or demean.

The Supreme Courts interpretations of the freedom of speech and hate speech basically find that government has no right to regulate speech at all. The Supreme Court has also made clear that simply because certain speech is offensive to people does not justify government from punishing those exercising their 1st Amendment rights. The Supreme Court has excluded items identified as obscene from 1st Amendment protection. Child pornography is an example of obscene material that is not protected and punishable speech. Other than that, government should remain impartial in the sharing of ideas.

After all, if government got involved in regulating speech then we would no longer be the very special United States of America. Our forefathers experienced firsthand the violation of limited speech and worship by King George III. They knew what they were doing when they penned the provisions for our freedoms. This may be more insidious than stupid on the part of Mr. Beyer. This could very well be an attempt to begin the implementation of Sharia law just as it has been implemented in current day Islamic countries.

### Sources:

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/first\\_amendment](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/first_amendment)

[https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2013/topic-pages/victims/victims\\_final](https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2013/topic-pages/victims/victims_final)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate\\_crime\\_laws\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate_crime_laws_in_the_United_States)

[http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2010/12/15/know\\_your\\_rights.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2010/12/15/know_your_rights.pdf)

<http://gopthedailydose.com/2015/12/30/this-is-insane-house-dems-strike-to-implement-first-sharia-law/>

Nahmod Law (<http://nahmodlaw.com/2013/12/04/know-your-constitution-5-free-speech-and-hate-speech/>)

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/569/text>



**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!!!**

*A Economical  
B&B Income Tax, Inc.  
We treat you like family!*



*Barbara Koepflinger  
Credentialed Tax Practitioner  
President*

**OUR SPONSORS**

*Click on Pictures to View Their Websites*



*Kathleen Passidomo  
Candidate for State Senate*



*Stephanie Eller  
Candidate Lee County Sheriff*



*Tommy Doyle  
Candidate, Supervisor of Elections*



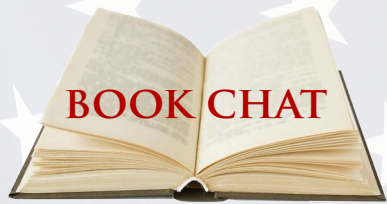
*Donna Clarke  
Lee Memorial Hospital Board*



*Heather Fitzenhagen  
Florida House of Representatives*



*Mike Scott  
Lee County Sheriff*



Ladies,

We will be meeting at the home of Cheryl Harris on January 27, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM to discuss Ron DeSantis' book, *Dreams From Our Founding Fathers*. The book explains how Americans have turned to the nation's founders' principals to respond to Barack Obama's transformational change agenda. He identifies the important principles that the Founders relied upon when they created the Constitution and demonstrates how Obama and his allies have radically departed from them.

Mr. DeSantis is seeking to fill the senate seat that will be vacated by Marco Rubio.

All are welcome to attend. There is always a lively discussion with like minded ladies. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Please call or email for directions.



*The LRWF ladies enjoy food and good conversation at the Book Chat held at Barbara Koeplinger's home in December.*

Thanks! I look forward to seeing you on the 27th.

Cheryl Harris, Book Chat Chairwoman  
13970 Lake Mahogany Blvd. Unit 2012  
Ft. Myers, 33907  
239-225-7390  
timcherylharris@aol.com

### OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

The LCREC will sponsor a table at Viva Cape Coral on January 16th from 4 pm to 10 pm at Sunsplash Water Park in Cape Coral. RPOF representative will be on hand to register new voters. This is always a fun event. If you are interested in volunteering to hand out information, contact Carmen Salomé, LCREC Outreach Chairperson, at [carmen.salome4@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.salome4@gmail.com).

### 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



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.*

### How Do You Paint the State Red???

**Become a social networker. Get involved in every way that you can...not just in political affairs, but become involved in social groups everywhere that you can. When you do, tell people what you think about the issues. Don't be timid!!! If you don't tell people, then others who do not agree with your political stands will!**





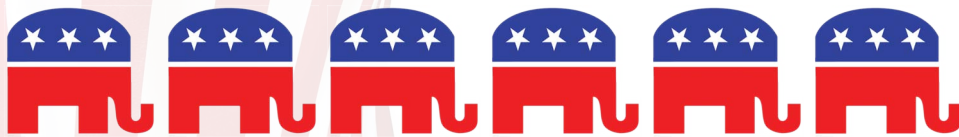
## How well do you know Hillary?

Read the info below and see her in her "early years!"



- 1947 - •Born in Park Ridge (Chicago) Ill.
- 1965 - •Enrolled in Wellesley College, Mass.
- 1966 - •Deeply influenced by Marxist/Maoist Carl Oglesby
- 1968 - •Became leftist Democrat supporting Eugene McCarthy  
•Her youth minister took her to hear MLK Jr. and to meet Saul Alinsky
- 1969 - •Enrolled at Yale Law School  
•Wrote senior thesis on theories of radical organizer Saul Alinsky  
•Alinsky offered her a job at his Industrial Areas Foundation
- 1970-72 - •Deeply involved with campus war protests
- 1972 - •Professor Thomas Emerson (Tommy the Commie) introduces her to the Black Panther Attorney Charles Garry  
•Moved to Berkeley, Calif. to work as an intern for Treuhaupt, Walker & Bernstein; Treuhaupt and his wife were members of the California Communist Party
- 1973 - •Graduated Yale Law School, took full-time job with the Children's Defense Fund funded by socialist Marian Wright Edelman
- 1975 - •Defended rapist of a 12 year old girl, later laughed for getting him off with minor time served  
•Married Bill Clinton
- 1976 - •Worked for the Jimmy Carter campaign  
•Chaired Legal Services Corp., a federally funded non-profit to expand the social welfare state  
•Joined Rose Law Firm
- 1978 - •Continued to chair Legal Services Corp., to expand the welfare state
- 1979-80 - •Engaged in land sales which later became the Whitewater Scandal
- 1982-88 - •Chaired the New World Foundation for six years, a far left organization funding Planned Parenthood among other similar far left organizations

Help Paint the Nation Red, Ladies! Pass the information above on to all you know!  
Send it to your email list and post it on your social media!



### OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



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



Dane Eagle  
Florida House of Representatives



Kevin Ruane  
Mayor, Sanibel Island

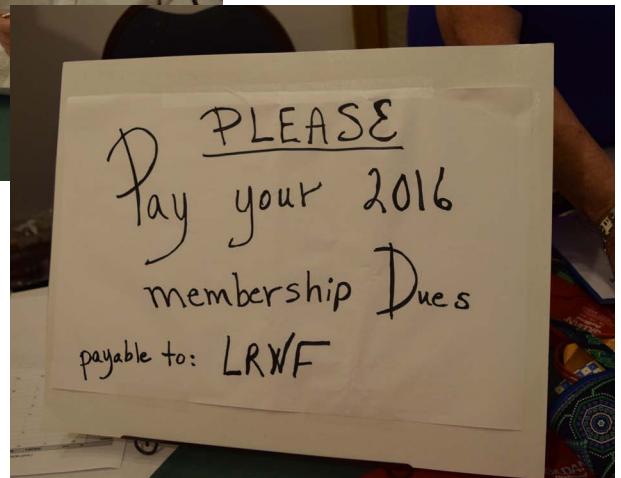


Ray Rodriguez  
Florida House of Representatives

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES  
DECEMBER 2015



*We take cash, check and credit cards!!!*



*Now it's time to pay your dues!!!*



*And now...it's time to eat!!!*





*Cindy...Pretty as a picture!*

*TOYS FOR TOTS!!! Thanks ladies for all you do for others! Especially for the little ones!*



*Don't forget your raffle tickets!!!*



*Missi Latra engaged in conversation with Representative Dane Eagle.*





*Everyone is busily getting ready for the meeting! It's nice to see so many like-minded people all working together for our conservative Republican candidates!*



*Two lovely ladies...Chris Quackenbush, candidate for Lee County School Board and Mindy Moran, our new LRWF Treasurer discussing political business!*



*Barb Koeplinger smiles pretty!*



*The girls are just acting goofy! Looks like Mary wants to shoot Missy with her... finger while Missy gives up!*





Are these cool shirts or what?????  
They are on sale at our monthly meetings!!



These ladies just had an inside tip...  
HILLARY IS GOING TO LOSE!!!



Men...welcome...John Fernandez with Fernandez Photography  
and Ken Dobson, Candidate Lee Co. Commissioner, District 5.



Need some pepper spray ladies?  
It goes well with the jewelry and other items that we have for sale!



Farewell to our 2015 LRWF Officers! You did your job well, ladies! We owe you so much!





*Just relaxing, fellowshiping and waiting for the food and our speaker!*



*Congressman Curt Clawson speaks from the heart as he brings us news from Washington.*



*Ladies...we present to you, the LRWF officers of 2016!  
Left to right are Doris Cortese, President, Rosemary Lewis, 1st VP, Missi Lastra, 2nd VP, Marj Tyrer, Recording Secretary,  
Clara Callahan, Corresponding Secretary, Mindy Moran, Treasurer, Pat Randolph, Assistant Treasurer*