

OFFICERS

President: Doris Cortese
1st VP: Rosemary Lewis
2nd VP: Carmen Salomé
Treasurer: Barbara Koeplinger
Asst. Treas: Sharon Gibson
Recording Sec: Marj Tyrer
Corresponding Sec: Clara Callahan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Americanism: Margaret Windhausen
Achievement Awards: Carol Beaumont
Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris, Mindy Moran
Bylaws: Kerri Tonkin
Campaigns/Elections: Kerri Tonkin
Caring for America: Renie Frank, Anita Diamond
Community Engagement: Jeanie Dozier
Fundraising: Rosemary Lewis
Hospitality: Maria Kernan
Legislation: Donna Clarke
Membership: Sharon Gibson
Newsletter: Mary Snyder
Parliamentarian: Kerri Tonkin
Programs: Carmen Salomé
Publicity: Gail Langner
Reservations: Mary Ann Hansen, Wren Morefield
Web Site: Missi Lastra

THE MAHOUT

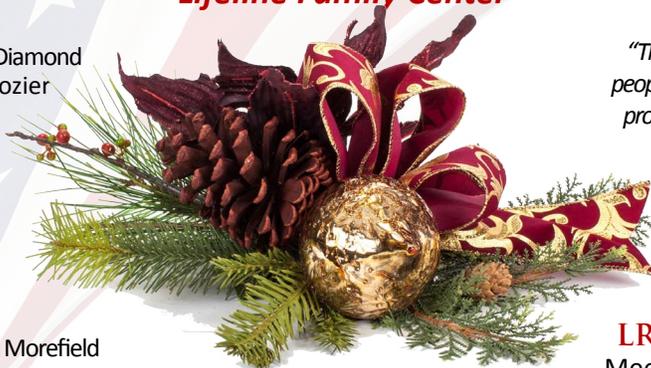
The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

DECEMBER 2015

*Strong Women
for a Strong America*

*KEEP THEM
IN YOUR HEARTS*

Lifeline Family Center



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The Constitution was never meant to prevent people from praying.; it's declared purpose was to protect their freedom to pray." Ronald Reagan



REP. CURT CLAWSON, CONGRESSMAN

Congressman Curt Clawson has been coming to Southwest Florida with his family since 1993. After a successful career as a business leader and former college basketball player, Clawson moved to Southwest Florida in 2011. He soon became involved in local water issues.

Clawson decided in 2014 to run in a special election to fill the vacated seat in Florida's 19th Congressional District. Clawson won the election on messages of constitutional conservatism, growing the economy and unifying the Republican Party of Southwest Florida.

Born in Tacoma, Washington, Clawson attended Batesville High School in Batesville, Indiana. He was recruited by Purdue, where he later helped his team win the 1984 Big Ten Championship. After graduating, Clawson served an Ambassadorial Scholarship for Rotary International, enrolled in graduate MBA studies in Monterrey, Mexico and played for the local university basketball team. Clawson began working for Arvin Industries in 1986 in Columbus, Indiana. In 1990 Clawson graduated from Harvard Business School with a Masters of Business Administration degree sponsored by Arvin. He returned to Arvin and held a variety of senior management level positions. In 1995, Clawson joined Allied Signal (now Honeywell) as President of the Filters and Spark Plugs Group. In 1999 he became President and Chief Operating Officer of American National Can. In 2001 Clawson joined Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc.

While at Hayes, Clawson established and funded a shelter for homeless teen mothers on the east side of Detroit. He also advises and mentors young athletes in SW Florida. When not in Washington, Curt enjoys spending time with his father in Bonita Springs. Together, they enjoy walking the beach, swimming in the Gulf, and watching beautiful sunsets.



*Rep. Curt Clawson
Congressman*

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, December 14th, at the beautiful Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers.

The keynote speaker will be Representative, Curt Clawson. He will be speaking to us about *Congressional Updates*.

For the dinner you will have a choice of chicken piccata or blackened shrimp skewers with a mango salsa, herb tossed rice, garlic green beans, house salad and mini cheesecake with berries for dessert

- \$25 Inclusive
- 5:15 PM Social Time / Dinner and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 12/9/15

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-december-dinner-meeting/>

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

*January's speaker will be Yaro Garcia,
President of the Coalition
and head clinician at
Abuse Counseling & Treatment (ACT)*

NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

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

A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Doris Cortese
LRWF President

As the Christmas season approaches, we send our prayers for comfort to the families of the people killed in the recent terrorist attacks. Our country, along with many others, are being threatened by ISIS and other Islamic terrorist organizations. As Americans, our first responsibility is to protect our borders and our citizens. We should be a compassionate nation, but also a rational nation.

On another note, I would like to express my appreciation to the officers and committee chairs who have all contributed greatly to the success of our club this year. A special thank you goes to Carmen Salomé and Barbara Koeplinger who will no longer be serving as officers. Your help and support this year has been invaluable.

To all of our members, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year with a complete Republican victory in 2016.

Let us all pledge to put forth our best effort to restore our country to the conservative leadership we need and deserve.

LET'S TAKE BACK OUR COUNTRY.

Doris Cortese,
LRWF President

LRWF MEMBER/CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

Chris Quackenbush has participated in research and legislation over the last 3 years on the issue of Common Core and High Stakes Testing. She participated in a Conference at the University of Notre Dame where she met national leaders and joined in the battle to stop Common Core in 2013. She co-founded Stop Common Core FL and was asked to chair the Stop Common Core statewide effort for the Florida Citizens Alliance in 2014. She participated in the statewide review of the current FL Standards and met with the State Board and the State Commissioner, bringing national experts to Florida to assist.

She has discussed Common Core personally with Governor Bobby Jindal and Indiana Governor Pence and the successful opponents of Common Core in Oklahoma. She works with local and state legislators as well as Congressman Curt Clawson to inform them on positions and bills.

In 2014, she worked with a small team creating legislation to stop Common Core and improve education informed by other state and national efforts, and HB1121 was sponsored in the FL House with a Senate companion, but it did not pass. This effort is ongoing.

Chris has traveled the state for the Florida Citizens Alliance speaking for, creating and assisting in the formation of education watchdog groups. She has written numerous articles published on Common Core.

Locally, Chris has served on the Lee County School District Strategic Plan Committee, Book Adoption Committee, Continuous Systemic Improvement Committee, and co-created the Lee County Citizens Education Action Committee.

She is a member of several Republican women's groups, Lee 912, Heritage Action, and AFP. Chris is an active realtor and Top Producer for Starlink Realty as well.

Chris is a mother of two and grandmother of two who inspire her work to restore Common Sense, NOT Common Core to education.



Chris Quackenbush
LRWF Member/Candidate
Lee County School Board, Dist. 3

Merry Christmas & Peace to all!





SHALL WE
NEVER FORGET
OUR FRIENDS
AND ALLIES
AT CHRISTMAS
AND ALL YEAR LONG...
THE FAITHFUL
PEOPLE OF
ISRAEL!
THEY HAVE NOT
FORGOTTEN US.

The picture above is a memorial that was set up by our true allies in the Middle East...Israel. It has a full listing of all who died on 9/11 inscribed on the memorial. The following quote is the inscription on the memorial.

"This metal remnant was taken from the remains of the Twin Towers, that imploded on September 11th disaster. It was sent over to Israel by the City of New York to be incorporated in this memorial. This metal piece, like the entire monument, is a manifestation of the special relationship between New York and Jerusalem."

BEST WISHES BARB!



*Barbara Koeplinger
LRWF Treasurer 2014-2015*

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to handle the club funds for the last two years! It was interesting watching the membership almost double since I took office. This job became a huge responsibility which I truly enjoyed. It was certainly a challenge.

This last year, as many of you know has been very difficult for me. I would have continued as treasurer, however with my daughter's condition, it is very time consuming and exhausting. I felt it was better for the club for me to retire from this position. I have great confidence that Mindy Moran and Pat Randolph will do a great job making sure we are always financially solvent in the future months. We will be having several T-shirt sales to promote our Republican values! We will let you know when these are available.

I am wishing all of you a wonderful 2016 Campaign Year! Yeah Republicans!! I will still be involved with the club as always.

Most sincerely,

Barbara Koeplinger
LRWF Treasurer 2014-2015



DONCASTER

For fine clothing [CLICK HERE!](#)



Susan Schmitt, Wardrobe Consultant

Purchase Christmas gifts from Doncaster this month and profits will be shared with LRWF!

MEMBERSHIP

- MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2016 ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID, PLEASE SEE SHARON GIBSON AT THE DECEMBER 2016 MEETING TO GET CURRENT.
- EACH ONE, ASK ONE -- THANKS TO EACH MEMBER WHO BROUGHT A GUEST, FRIEND, RELATIVE TO ONE OF OUR 2015 MEETINGS. AT THE NEXT MEETING, THERE WILL BE A DRAWING. EACH MEMBER WHO RESPONDED TO EACH ONE, WILL BE ENTERED AND YOU MAY BE THE LUCKY MEMBER TO RECEIVE A \$50 GIFT CARD JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Our Republican candidates are getting so much buzz, we cannot miss the opportunity to invite some of those folks who are chatting about our Republican candidates. When you hear a discussion around you, please remember to share your relationship with LRWF and tell them how we get involved in electing the next President of the USA. Talk about our local headquarters that will be set up, about the access to meeting candidates when they come to the area, about walking door-to-door with fellow club members, making phone calls, distributing signs and flyers. Election year is a great opportunity to get others involved in our organization to accomplish our goals of supporting Republican candidates in primary, general and special elections.

Sharon Gibson
Membership Chairwoman 2015

CURRENT TOTALS

Full members	153
Associate members	33
Student members	2
Total	188

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Cherri Carlson
28 Burrstone Avenue
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-5962
cherri.carlson@cox.net
757-567-0835

Norma Jean Taylor
1326 S. Brandywine Circle #2
Fort Myers, FL 33919-7347
MRST413@gmail.com
239-985-0028

Cynthia Levy
19420 LaSerena Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33967-0527
pursepajamas@aol.com
970-532-5555

Betsy Howlett
12979 Kedlestone Circle
Fort Myers, FL 33912-6607
betsy@managermytime.com
239-768-2487

Sharon Harrington
1436 Lynwood Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901-5916
239-332-3546
SLHARR02@COMCAST.NET

Janet Eby
16063 Forest Oaks Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33908-5503
sugarjama@comcast.net
239-481-0703

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Walter Cortese
1314 SW 35th Street
Cape Coral, FL 33914
239-205-0646

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

Ken Dobson
6730 Rich Road
N. Fort Myers, FL 33917-4574
kennydodson47@gmail.com
239-677-5252

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE PRIMARY PROCESS???

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn everything that you
need to know about the primary process!

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



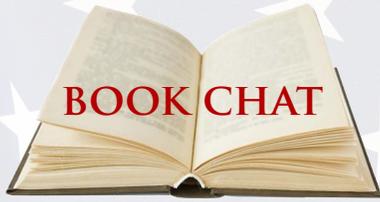
Larry Kiker
Lee County Commissioner District 3



Matt Caldwell
Florida House of Representatives



Linda Doggett
Lee County Clerk of Courts



Come join us on December 17th from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. We will be talking about Ben Carson's new book, *A More Perfect Union*. Ben Carson wrote this book to encourage every citizen to read and think about the Constitution and to defend it from those who misinterpret it and undermine it. He explains the importance of defending the Bill of Rights, which guarantees our freedom to speak, bear arms and practice our religion. He also explains how the Constitution isn't about history...it's about our life in America today.

We are all taking a recipe from *Viva Florida*, Ann Scott's Cookbook and are bringing them to our Book Chat for December. If anyone wants a recipe I will scan it and send it to you. All are invited....

Please contact Cheryl Harris to confirm your attendance. We look forward to seeing you in December.

Cheryl Harris
Book Chat Chairwoman
239-225-739
timcherylharris@aol.com

How Do You Paint the State Red???

Learn in every way that you can. Watch the debates, watch the news, read articles on the Internet and in the newspapers and magazines. And then...when you think you know it all, come to an LRWF meeting and learn more...and better yet bring two or three friends so they can learn too...and then take your friends to vote!!!



DID YOU KNOW THIS??

Fewer than 5% of all elephants die of cancer.
25% of all people die of cancer.
Elephants have 20 times more P53 genes than humans do.
It is believed that the elephant has the key to finding a cure for cancer in its P53 gene!

*Of course...we already knew that the elephant was GREAT!
The donkey can't brag of that!*

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*

FASHION SHOW NEWS!

The Fashion Show held at The Forest was a great success! We made a record breaking profit of approximately \$8,728.00! Attendance was 171 people, including a table made up of FGCU Republican young ladies and gentlemen. Congratulations to the hard working committee and all those who purchased purses, accessories and either donated, made or solicited items for our successful auctions. The biggest donated item was for a week in a cabin in Georgia, donated by Jeanne Dozier. Bell Tower Shops showcased a variety of their stores, dressing our models elegantly and in the latest fashions. The surprise male models, Captain Carmine Marceno and Terry Miller were a hit and a very popular addition to our beautiful lady models.

Thanks to all who worked on the Show and many thanks to everyone who attended and generously supported our wonderful club. From your Fashion Show Committee

GREAT JOB MISSI!



Missi Lastra
LRWF Website Chair 2015

One year ago I had the privilege to take on the role of Website Chair behind an amazing predecessor who originated www.leerepublicanwomen.com, Cindy Lignelli. In our first meeting, or the "handing off of the baton" meeting (coming from an old track & field relay runner), we both agreed it was time to take our online presence to the next level. I thank Cindy and her committee for realizing the importance of online media messaging and I thank my committee, Mary Snyder, Rita Miller, and John Sklavounos, a dear friend and a wonderful Internet guru, for making LRWF relevant online in a rapidly changing medium. The best description I have heard about this "speed-of-light" changing industry is Marco Rubio's quote, "It took the invention of the telephone 75 years to reach 100 million users, it took Candy Crush one year to reach 100 million users."

In the end, I feel we achieved our goals of creating an online presence through our website, blog, Facebook and twitter sites that ; 1. is user friendly to the members and viewers, 2. is an online presence that attracts a diverse group of viewers, 3. properly communicates and educates our conservative message, and 4. is a website that is income producing. However, an effective online presence is a continual work in progress, and I am super excited about our new Website Chair, Gail Langner. I am completely confident in the future of our online presence and can't wait to see where Gail and her committee will take us. The baton has been passed!



DO YOU KNOW THESE STATS?

On October 9th, the Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC) released a revised report showing that 92% of mass public shootings between January 2009 and July 2014 took place in **GUN-FREE ZONES!**

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



*Caring for America will be collecting
Toys for Tots at the December 14th meeting!
Come with toys in hand!
Help our Marines bless children!*



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

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



*Stephanie Eller
Candidate Lee County Sheriff*



*Tommy Doyle
Candidate, Supervisor of Elections*



*Kathleen Passidomo
Candidate for State Senate*

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES
NOVEMBER 2015
LRWF BIENNIAL FASHION SHOW...WHAT A BLAST!!!



Raffle tickets anyone???



PURSES!!!!



MORE TICKETS!!!!



Checking in and taking care of business!!!!



HOLY COW!!! MORE PURSES!!!



Missi Lastra...inventor of our new website was taking credit card payments with our NEW web based merchant account.



The crowd anxiously waits for people to arrive and for the show to begin...



Is this a runway or what?????



Come on girls!!! Get serious...we're trying to get a good picture!!



Just can't get the girls to stop laughing!



OH MY!!! He's touching my hand!







Many thanks to our models...

Two "Surprise" Mystery Models
Captain Carmine Marceno
Terry Miller

Also...

Pat Baldwin
Cindy Crawford
Cathy Eagle
Marilyn Kostik
Cindy Lignelli
Margie Nelson
Whitney Pope
Maribel Sanchez
Katherine Stoll
Marj Tyrer

And a special thanks to...

Our moderator...
Shannon Densham

Thanks also to
Jessica Armstrong
our club photographer.

Thanks to the countless
people who worked
behind the scenes.



IF YOU MISSED ALL
OF THIS FUN...
MAKE SURE YOU GO
TO OUR
NEXT MEETING ON
DECEMBER 14TH...