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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
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
Web Site: Missi Lastra

THE MAHOUT

The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

AUGUST 2015

*Strong Women
for a Strong America*

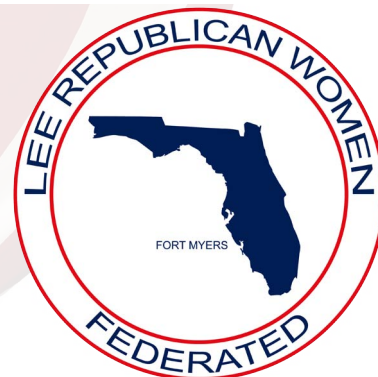


KEEP THEM IN YOUR HEARTS

*Our new Caring for America
project..keep them
in your hearts.*

Lifeline Family Center
offers a positive alternative
to abortion, giving both mother
and baby hope for the future.

*A Place Where Shattered Dreams
Can Be Changed
to a Promising Future.*



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."
Ronald Reagan

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, August 10th, at our new meeting place...the beautiful Pincher's Restaurant – The Marina at Edison Ford 2360 W 1st St., Fort Myers. The keynote speaker this month is Drew Steel speaking on the "State of the Media Today."

For dinner you will have a choice of beef stroganoff with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables or grilled tilapia with tropical fruit salsa with rice and seasonal vegetables. Both will be served with Caesar salad and Key lime pie for dessert.

- \$25 inclusive
- 5:15 PM Social Time / Dinner and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 8/6/15

Make reservations with Mary Ann Hansen by calling 239-432-9389 or emailing RMH738@aol.com

You may also pay online with credit card by going to <http://leerepublicanwomen.com/event/lrwf-august-dinner-meeting/>

Remember, a reservation made is a reservation paid!

Next Month's Speaker:

*Linda Doggett,
Lee County Clerk of Courts
Speaking about the Clerk of Courts
Updates*



Drew Steele

Host of Daybreak, 92.5 Fox News

DREW STEELE

Drew Steele is the Host of DAYBREAK, on 92.5 Fox News. Every morning from 5AM – 9AM, radio listeners join Drew for interesting and entertaining conversation about politics, government and local, regional and national current events. Daybreak with Drew Steele is the top rated morning news-talk program in Southwest Florida.

For 25 years radio listeners throughout the region have come to know Drew through his radio programs and music production. Now as a successful talk show host, Drew can share his knowledge and passion for politics with an ever-growing audience.

Drew's successful broadcast career began with his love for music. Drew has composed and produced music with scores of talented artists including Country Music Star John Rich, John Michael Montgomery, pop music star Selena Gomez and NSync.

You've probably heard Drew's music in movies and television shows as well as Top 40 Billboard hits.

Drew's roots are in Long Island, New York. He moved to Florida to finish his studies in finance. Drew, his wife Brie, their son Giovanni Carlo and Austrian Shepard PJ live in Fort Myers.

Drew will be speaking to us about the "State of the Media Today."

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

Many of the candidates for state and county office have begun to campaign for the 2016 election. There are many good, qualified Republican candidates for every office.

As president, I would like to review the guidelines of the Federation, as it pertains to candidates, and what our organization does to be fair to all Republican candidates.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. All candidates are welcome to put their materials on the information table by the door of the meeting room. Please do not put anything on individual tables.
2. Any meet and greet or fundraiser flyer for Republican candidates will be blasted to our mailing list.
3. No candidate events are to be announced from the lectern or the floor at the meeting.
4. All candidates will be introduced at our general meeting.

I am asking that all items, whether from candidates or of general nature be submitted to me for approval before they are either put on the website or printed in the newspaper.

We are all behind our candidates and are working toward a victory in 2016.

Respectfully, Doris Cortese, LRWF President

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Marilyn was born in Detroit, Michigan and lived there for 31 years. She married her husband Tony in November 1970. She has lived in six states and two foreign countries. She says she has the best quality of life right here in SW Florida. After Tony retired from the Army in 1982, after 27 years active duty, they moved to Cape Coral. She has two children, two step-children and nine grandchildren. Her daughter is the Principal at Challenger Middle School in Cape Coral and her son is a System's Engineer for Boeing in Arizona. Her husband is a Fishing Guide/Charter Boat Captain and loves what he does; which allows her the time to volunteer in the community.

Present community activities include; Uncommon Friends Foundation (Chair, Uncommon Evening), Business' United Political Action Committee (BUPAC – Past President), Cape Coral Kiwanis, Legislative Chair (President 5 years total), Lee Republican Women Federated, SW Cape Coral Neighborhood Assn, Secretary (former Vice Chair), Calusa Chapter, Military Officers Assn of America, Secretary (former Treasurer), Faith Presbyterian Church, Deacon (former Deacon Moderator).

Honors and education that she has received are Citizen of the Year, Cape Coral Council for Arts & Humanities, Lee County Paulette Burton Citizen of the Year Award Twice Semi-Finalist, Sue Wadas Award, Cultural Park Theatre, Inc., GEM Award, Sheriff Citizen Academy, Charter Class (1999), SW Florida Chamber, "Leadership Lee County" (1998), Cape Coral Chamber, "Leadership Cape Coral", Charter Class (1993), Barry University, Bachelors in Public Administration, 2004 Summa Cum Laude.



Marilyn Stout
LRWF Member

Marilyn began her political involvement in 1980 when she walked her end of town (Hampton, VA) passing out literature for Ronald Reagan. She didn't know she was doing anything special until she received a phone call from Nancy Reagan thanking her for helping "Ronnie". That year she went to the Virginia State Convention and had the opportunity to support John Warner for the Senate.

After moving to Cape Coral in 1982, her party activity is highlighted by the following: President, Republican Women's Club of Cape Coral (4 terms), President, Ft Myers Republican Women's Club (5 terms), FFRW Board – Chair, Young Business Women; Recording Secretary, 4th VP and 3d VP, FFRW Conferences, Conventions & District Workshops missing very few in 21 years, NFRW Delegate to 5 conventions (Baltimore, Cincinnati, Las Vegas, Seattle, and Nashville), Delegate to RNC Conventions in San Diego and Philadelphia in (1996 and 2000), Delegate to Presidency V, IV, III and a State Convention in (1990), Lee County State Committeewoman (1996-2000), LCREC – Precinct Committeewoman for 15 years as District Leader, Vice Chair, President's Committee Chair, Congressional District 14 Vice Chair (1996-2000), Cape Coral City Councilwoman (1992-1994), Lee Memorial Health System Board (1996-2000 and 2004-2014), Candidate for State House in (2000), Member, all Republican Women's Clubs in Lee County.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR "EVERYBODY WINS" FUNDRAISER YET???

For a preview **CLICK** on "Everybody Wins" or the pictures below!
YOU SHOP...LRWF EARN!



► **SILPADA**[®]
find yourself in it.



The Classic Face



Premier
DESIGNS



WORLDVENTURES

MEMBERSHIP

- Have you visited the LRWF website? <http://leerepublicanwomen.com/>
- Did you know LRWF is on facebook? Lee Republican Women Federated
- Are you receiving and reading the wonderful newsletter of our club? The Mahout edited by Mary Snyder contains great photos of our meetings and it is an excellent way to get to know the faces and names of our membership.
- At each meeting, we will continue to have a couple of tables reserved for our newer members. I urge all members to stop by and say hello.
- Remember, you can always put your purse on your seat, grab a drink, and circulate through the room prior to the meeting being called to order. We allow for 30 minutes of social time and I am urging you to participate and meet some new friends.
- Thanks to those members participating in the Lifeline Family Center shower. We had two big bags of supplies donated.
- Remember our membership theme....EACH ONE, ASK ONE....bring along a neighbor or friend to the next meeting.

Sharon Gibson
Membership Chair 2015
239-362-3042

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Amy Collins
226 Hampton Avenue
LaBelle, FL 33935-5168
239-462-8742
amy.collins4u@yahoo.com

Kathryn Belasco
11048 Yellow Poplar Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33919-8882
239-898-9560
Kathrynbelasco@comcast.net

Judy Bassett
229 SW 37th Lane
Cape Coral, FL 33914-7860
239-823-9950
jmbassett@comcast.net

Stephanie Burr
16920 Carmen Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33908-4001
239-841-1035
Stephanieburr628@gmail.com

NEW ADDRESS

Cindy Lignelli
6251 Alcorn Street
Bokeelia, FL 33922

CURRENT TOTALS

141 full members
29 associate members
2 student members

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 172 Members



There is no Book Chat for August. Meetings will resume in September with the reading of Ted Cruz's book, *A Time for Truth*. The meeting will be at the home of Mindy Moran. Snacks and beverages will be provided. The date is September 30, from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Please save the date and plan to come meet and share insights. We would love your ideas for upcoming book choices.

Please call Mindy or Cheryl for directions. We look forward to seeing you in August,

Mindy Moran
239-288-7130

mindy7156@yahoo.com

Cheryl Harris
239-225-7390

timcherylharris@aol.com

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



RAY GONZALES' BILL TO HELP DISABLED

Gov. Rick Scott signed a new law Monday, July 8th that allows individuals with disabilities to increase their savings from \$2,000 to \$100,000 without losing their state and federal benefits.

Scott signed the Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act that was introduced by Florida Representative Ray Gonzales. He signed the bill at the Marian Center in Miami Gardens, a school for people with disabilities. The law goes into effect July 1, 2016.

As a result, 2,000 people previously on a wait list for a Medicaid waiver from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities will be able to receive care at home instead of being institutionalized. Under the state budget that went into effect July 1, \$40 million will go toward providing services for these 2,000; 20,000 people are on the wait list.

Governor Scott shows great joy while talking about a new bill that he signed which had been introduced by our own Ray Gonzales. The bill helps people with disabilities find independence. They were at the Marian Center, a school for people with disabilities in Miami Gardens. Acela Ruiz, right, will now receive services for her 9-year-old son, Devin Feterman as a result of this bill. Ray Gonzales is pictured to the right and behind Governor Scott.

Acela Ruiz applied for a Medicaid waiver for her autistic son, Devin Feterman, when he was a toddler. Devin is now 9 years old. As a result of this bill introduced by Ray Gonzales, Devin will now receive physical and speech therapy. They will also be able to purchase many necessities of life that they previously could not afford.

The new budget also provides \$1 million for an Employment Enhancement Project, which provides training for developmentally disabled people. When they get trained for jobs, they are more able to become independent.

The law creates trust funds for individuals with disabilities, to be managed by the Florida Prepaid College Board. Families can put non taxed money into their accounts and will be allowed to deposit \$100,000 into the accounts, up from the current limit of \$2,000, without losing their Supplemental Security Income benefits.

“Our current system of reducing or cutting off benefits to those who exceed a relatively small income or asset threshold disincentivizes people with unique abilities from pursuing employment opportunities. The Florida ABLE Act corrects this issue and provides for persons with unique abilities to use their talents in the workforce, earn a wage, and save for the future without the concern of losing important state and federal benefits.” Senate President Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, said in a statement.

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



Dane Eagle
Florida House of Representatives



Kevin Ruane
Sanibel Mayor, Candidate Lee Co. Comm.



Ray Rodriguez
Florida House of Representatives

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Clarke, Legislative Chair

August 10 - 21 will be the special session for redrawing 8 of Florida's 27 congressional districts. Rep. Jose Oliva, R-Miami, will chair the House Committee and Sen. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, will chair the Senate Committee. These districts effect Tampa Bay, Orlando and South Florida.

At the July LRWF board meeting, board members voted unanimously to take a stand on the issue of partisan vs. non-partisan elections. As such, the Lee Republican Women Federated endorses the REC position of support for partisan political races at both state and local levels.



PATRIOTIC ELEPHANT QUILT RAFFLE

LRWF Fundraising will begin selling raffle tickets for a beautiful and patriotic "Elephant Quilt" at \$5.00 per ticket or five tickets for \$20.00 starting with our July meeting. The final drawing will be held at the Fashion Show in November.

The quilt will be on display at our meetings and club events until the drawing for the lucky winner in November. So don't miss out! We appreciate your support for our club!

CHARTER REVIEW BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

Come to the following public meeting regarding changes to the county charter... single member districts, term limits, and more.

August 27th, 2015 , 6:00-8:00pm
Location: East Lee County High School
715 Thomas Sherwin Ave.
Lehigh Acres, FL 33974

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Their Websites



*Jeanne Dozier
Lee County School Board, District 2*



*Kathleen Passidomo
Candidate for State Senate*



*Heather Fitzenhagen
Florida House of Representatives*



*Mike Scott
Lee County Sheriff*



*Donna Clarke
Lee Memorial Hospital Board*

GOVERNOR SCOTT ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER TO HELP PROTECT OUR MILITARY

In response to the murder of five military members in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Governor Scott issued an executive order to help protect Florida National Guard troops.

The Governor's order includes:

- Relocating all Florida National Guard personnel at the state's six storefront recruitment centers to the nearest Florida National Guard Armory until there are recommendations made to improve the security of store-front recruitment centers;
- Beginning discussions with local law enforcement agencies to arrange regular security checks for Florida National Guard Armories; and
- Ensuring that all qualified fulltime guardsmen are adequately armed for their personal protection.

We fully support Governor Scott's executive order. We must do all we can to keep our brave men and women in uniform safe from acts of terror.

Adam Putnam, Agriculture Commissioner will expedite Concealed Weapon License Applications for active military and veterans.

A LITTLE GUN HISTORY

(The following was taken from this month's Trunkline (Women's Republican Club of Naples Federated))

DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT, THAT THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN IN OUR COUNTRY ALSO !!!!!

In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control: From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

In 1911, Turkey established gun control: From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Germany established gun control in 1938: From 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.

China established gun control in 1935: From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Guatemala established gun control in 1964: From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in 1970: From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Cambodia established gun control in 1956: From 1975 to 1977, one million educated people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

56 million defenseless people were rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control.

You won't see this data on the US evening news, or hear politicians disseminating this information.

- Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property.
- And, yes, gun-control laws adversely affect only the law-abiding citizens.
- With guns, we are 'citizens,' without them, we are 'subjects.'
- During WW II, the Japanese decided not to invade America because they knew most Americans were ARMED!
- Gun owners in the USA are the largest armed forces in the World!
- If you value your freedom, please spread this anti-gun control message to all of your friends.
- The purpose of fighting is to win. There is no possible victory in defense.
- The sword is more important than the shield and skill is more important than either.

SWITZERLAND ISSUES A GUN TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD!

SWITZERLAND'S GOVERNMENT ISSUES AND TRAINS EVERY ADULT IN THE USE OF A RIFLE.

SWITZERLAND HAS THE LOWEST GUN RELATED CRIME RATE OF ANY CIVILIZED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD!!!

IT'S A NO BRAINER! DON'T LET OUR GOVERNMENT WASTE MILLIONS OF OUR TAX DOLLARS IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE ALL LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS AN EASY TARGET.

PASS THESE FACTS ON...

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES
JUNE 2015



Lt. Gov. Carlos López-Cantera, candidate for U.S. Senate seat currently held by Marco Rubio visits with community leaders of Lee and Collier county. He is standing here with LRWF 2nd Vice President and Program Chair, Carmen Salomé.



*Photo by Jessica
Borden Flint smiles pretty for the camera!*

LRWF
JUNE
MONTHLY
MEETING
PHOTOS



*Photo by Jessica
Marilyn Stout, Candidate for Cape Coral City Council (left) with Lee County Clerk, Linda Doggett*



John Fernandez Photography

Linda Loudon (left) with Chris Quackenbush (right)



John Fernandez Photography

Pictured left to right are Rita Miller from Lee County Clerk's office, Doris Cortese, LRWF President and Missi Lastra, LRWF Website Administrator.



John Fernandez Photography

Dane Eagle, Florida State Representative with Ita Neymotin, Regional Counsel Second District Court of Appeals



Missi Lastra, LRWF Web Administrator, Rita Miller, Lee County Clerk's office, Rana Erbrick, Cape Coral City Council, and Jessica Miller, LRWF Photographer.



Photo by Jessica

Kelsey Gorry, Dane Eagle's District Aide (left) with Doris Cortese, President LRWF.



Photo by Jessica

Amanda, one of the mothers from the Lifeline Family Center brings her baby for all to see!



Our Patriotic Elephant quilt was on display for all to enjoy!

**IF YOU MISSED ALL OF THIS FUN...
MAKE SURE YOU GO TO THE NEXT
LUNCH MEETING ON AUGUST 10TH.**