

## 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

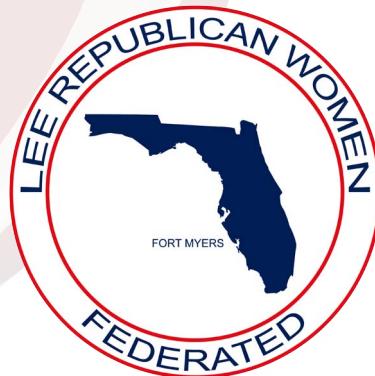
Americanism: Margaret Windhausen  
Achievement Awards: Carol Beaumont  
Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris  
Bylaws: Kerri Tonkin  
Campaigns/Elections: Kerri Tonkin  
Caring for America: Renie Frank, Anita Diamond  
Community Engagement: Jeanie Dozier  
Fundraising: Rosemary Lewis  
Hospitality: Maria Kernan  
Legislation: Donna Clarke  
Membership: Sharon Gibson  
Newsletter: Mary Snyder  
Parliamentarian: Shirley O'Donnell/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

MAY 2015  
*Strong Women  
for a Strong America*

Like Us On  
facebook 



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong"* - Thomas Sowell

**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.*

## LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, May 11th,  
at the Edison Restaurant. The keynote  
speaker will be Angela Spencer, Presi-  
dent of Empowerment Enterprises.  
Angela will be speaking to us about  
Human Trafficking in SW Florida, and  
how we can help with this huge prob-  
lem.

The lunch menu will be chicken Monte  
Carlo sandwiches with fresh tomatoes  
and coleslaw and a seasonal dessert.

- \$18 inclusive
- 11:15 PM Social Time / Lunch and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 5/6/15

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

*Or make your reservation by going  
to the LRWF website at <http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/events/reservations/>*

*You may also pay online with credit  
card by going to <http://mkt.com/lee-republican-women-federated>.*

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

### Next Month's Speaker:

Cynthia Henderson  
President FFRW



Angelina Spencer  
Empowerment Enterprises, President

### ANGELINA SPENCER

Angelina is President of Empowerment Enterprises Ltd., a Washington, D.C. based political management firm.

She is active in the Collier County community, serving on the Greater Naples Better Government Committee, volunteering with the Collier County Sheriff's office as a team member of the Special Crimes Bureau Anti-human Trafficking Unit, teaching "Life Skills" through Jr. Achievement and acting as a Breakfast & Books mentor and a board member for PACE. She is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Collier.

Additionally, her anti-human trafficking campaign with special agents at Homeland Security Investigations has resulted in a 2014 Director's Award nomination from Immigration & Customs Enforcement.

Angelina earned her B.A., summa cum laude, in psychology, from Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio. She earned her Master's degree and was the 2013 valedictorian at the George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management.

## 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

We, as conservative, Republican Federated Women have such an exciting time ahead as the 2016 election gets underway. We must be ever mindful that next year's election is critical for the future restoration of our country.

With that being said, we each have a responsibility to support and work for the Republican candidate of our own choosing. Will we all agree on those candidates? Most certainly not. Each of us will choose based on our own values, our own principles and our own beliefs and the candidate that we each feel best reflects the same.

So, I am asking that we respect each other's choice and not be divisive. We are all aware that the Democrats will do enough to undermine our candidates, so it is imperative that we not assist them in their mission of destruction, by dividing our wonderful club based upon a candidate choice.

Let's all join hands with one sole purpose...to work toward steering our country back on the course to freedom.

*"There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." — Ronald Reagan*

Respectfully,

Doris Cortese  
LRWF, President

## MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Kerri Tonkin was born and raised in southeast Alaska where she raised three children and spent most of her working career in the legal sector as a paralegal. She was a Regulation Program Coordinator for the State of Alaska and wrote the regulations for all fisheries. She retired from the state in 2012. Kerri was also a commercial fisherman from the ages of 21 through 26.

Kerri was a professional caterer for years in Alaska. She catered for small cruise ships with very influential people and even cooked for Chuck Norris. Today Kerri cooks for the Knights of Columbus at her church, St Francis Xavier.

When she was in her early 40's, she started paying attention to politics and got involved in local school board elections, city council and at the state levels, she campaigned heavily for a State Senator. During the time which Governor George W. Bush ran for the presidency, she really got involved and held house parties for him, gave out bumper stickers and was on a teleconference with other Republican volunteers when the President and Mrs. Bush surprised them all by joining the teleconference.

Because of her position as a state employee, she couldn't get too involved in politics, but she did get involved in Capital City Republican Women's Group as a member working on various committees. Through CCRW she got to meet William F. Buckley, Hayley Barber, Tucker Carlson, and of course, Gov. Sarah Palin. She also volunteered on the Governor's Campaign.

When she retired, her oldest daughter was living in Fort Myers. Kerri got tired of being a Skype grandma. As a result, she came to Fort Myers with her husband in August of 2012 to be with their grandchildren. She has a grandson and granddaughter and now lives seven minutes away from them. Her husband Robert is a registered investment advisor with Arbor Investment Management Company working as a senior Vice President.

Once settled in Fort Myers, Kerri found LRWF on the Internet and wanted to get involved. Later she got invited to go to a luncheon meeting by Margaret Windhausen who had sold her counter tops. Kerri joined LRWF right there on the spot. This year she got involved through Doris Cortese... and now she is the chairman of the Campaigns and Elections Committee, Shirley O'Donnell and Kerri co-chair as Parliamentarians.

*Thanks Kerri for helping us "Paint the State Red!"*



Kerri Tonkin  
LRWF Campaigns, Elections and  
Bylaws Chairman

## MEMBERSHIP

Remember when you were a new member of the club? So many faces, I thought, and how will I ever remember the names! Here are some hints to help.

First thing, members, please wear your nametags at all of our events. Second, volunteer to help be a greeter or hostess at the meetings...that way you can get close to the members and have a chance for a brief chat. Third, sit with different ladies each time you attend. Fourth, volunteer to be on a committee. Five, SMILE, and provide a warm, welcoming greeting to all you meet.

Please see me at the meetings to obtain your 2015 Membership Directory....changes will be published in the newsletter so make sure to do the corrections in your book. The newsletter will also list the names of our new members since publication of the directory. If you find that you live close to a new member, call her up and offer a ride to the meeting.

Sharon Gibson, Membership Chairperson

### NEW FULL MEMBERS

Heather Messmer  
8695 College Parkway  
Suite 1010  
Fort Myers, FL 33919-3628  
239-489-9912  
Rmessmer@earthlink.net

Peggy Patterson  
39 NE 10th Avenue  
Cape Coral, FL 33909-2681  
239-810-6241  
pegpatson.pp@gmail.com

Whitney Ambuter Pope  
54 Prather Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33919-3130  
214-675-4267  
wambutergmail.com

### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Russ Crawford  
15031 Punta Rassa Road  
#902  
Fort Myers, FL 33908-2772  
309-265-2468  
russ@mtco.com

### NEW STUDENT MEMBER

Jessica Armstrong  
301 Hollywood Street  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-5335  
239-994-1610  
jessicaarmstrong71@gmail.com

### CURRENT TOTALS

129 full members  
29 associate members  
2 student members

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 160 Members

### DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Page 10 - Doherty, Michel (NOT Michele)

Page 16 – Hughes, Jan – correct email is janhhughes@gmail.com

Page 17 – Knapp, Betty – passed away earlier this year

Page 11 – Everly, Theresa – correct email is ThereseDEverly@gmail.com

Page 13 – Gibson, Sharon – 14805 Calusa Palms Drive (STRIKE #205)



April Book Chat met on April 29 at the home of Cheryl Harris. The book “*Hands Off My Gun*” by Dana Loesch was discussed. It was decided to meet at the home of Rosemary Lewis for the May meeting on May 27th. We will be discussing Scott Walker’s book, “*Unintimidated*.“ It was the consensus that it would be interesting to read the books of the potential Republican candidates. Therefore, we will be reading Rand Paul’s book, “*Taking a Stand*” for June and Ted Cruz’s book “*A Time for Truth*” for July. This gives you a heads-up for the next three months.

We would love to have more ladies in attendance. Please consider taking time from your schedule to join us from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on the last Wednesday of the month. We would love for you to share your insight.

If you are planning to attend, please confirm by May 20th. You may get directions by calling or emailing Rosemary Lewis. For a map, [CLICK HERE](#). We look forward to seeing you!

You may call or email Mindy Moran or Cheryl Harris for confirmation.

Cheryl and Mindy

Mindy Moran  
239-288-7130  
[mindy7156@yahoo.com](mailto:mindy7156@yahoo.com)

Hope to see you at Book Chat,  
Cheryl

Cheryl Harris  
239-225-7390  
[timcherylharris@aol.com](mailto:timcherylharris@aol.com)

Rosemary Lewis  
239-284-6477  
[Lewis.rose@gmail.com](mailto:Lewis.rose@gmail.com)

## MISSI LASTRA IN MIAMI FOR MARCO RUBIO'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Missi Lastra had a once in a lifetime experience...the chance to be present when a politician announced he is running for president. Below are her thoughts and impressions of that event. *THIS IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT.*

I was in Tallahassee for FFRW's annual Tally Days when I got a news bulletin on facebook that Marco Rubio was making an important announcement at the Miami Freedom Tower on April 13th. I quickly texted a friend to ask if she knew if he was running for President and I received an immediate response, "Yes, go to the website and get your ticket now!" How exciting, but not surprising.

The Freedom Tower is a historical and iconic building that is very meaningful, especially to the vibrant Cuban community in Miami-Dade County. He, or his team, made the perfect venue choice for his announcement. It was HOT, so HOT, with way too many people crammed into the main auditorium like sardines, but the music was thumping with Miami natives Pit Bull and Gloria Estefan - the energy was intense. I remember thinking it was good he was doing this in Miami because the energy of this city is like nowhere else - and it proved to be true on April 13th!

The evening commenced with a prayer from Pastor Greg Laurie, who scolded the excited crowd at one point, "You are not supposed to clap and cheer during prayer!" We settled down after that much needed rebuke, but got fired up all over again when Rubio came out. Marco Rubio is a true orator and gave an excellent speech, addressing most of the issues facing our nation; global leadership, Iran, education, immigration, Obamacare, family not government, taxes, veterans and a few I didn't jot down. Again, there were no surprises as his stand on the issues have been consistent, though he sounded even more confident, more passionate and more determined than ever.

I was particularly moved when he said "We need to make a generational choice about what the future of our country will be!" He made reference to the USA being an "*Exceptional*" country which was straight from his 2010 Senate Campaign centered around "*Exceptionalism*." He announced his campaign theme, "A New American Century." Marco poked a little fun of Hillary's Presidential campaign ad that aired the previous day, without specifically naming her he stated that she was a leader of yesterday.

"Yesterday is over. And we are never going back," Rubio said, as the crowd cheered. "Before us now is the opportunity to author the greatest chapter yet in the amazing story of America. We can't do that by going back to the leaders and ideas of the past."

Marco looks like he has not aged at all over the last few years. His wife Jeanette was stunning and vibrant as always. Their children have grown so much and were perfect angels on the stage. They represented an American family, one from Cuban immigrants who came from hard work ethics, fairness and patriotism - but neither wealth nor privilege. They could be any American family and ideally, could connect with most. The difference is, daddy/hubby is running for President of the United States of America.

I took away from Rubio's announcement a fervent desire to get America back on track. He spoke of this exceptional country and all we have achieved. He also spoke of a new century that can restore America and launch us to a better place. Rubio spoke of the son of a bartender and a maid (himself of course) and the American dream. April 13th was an exciting and moving experience that I will not soon forget. I will leave you with one of Marco Rubio's quotes:

"A collection of immigrants and exiles, of former slaves and refugees, together built the free-est and most prosperous nation ever." - Marco Rubio

To read his speech in full, click on the following link.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2015/04/13/full-text-of-marco-rubios-2016-presidential-campaign-announcement/>

Missi Lastra  
LRWF Member

Missi was interviewed at the event by NBC-2 news. To watch the video with Missi, click on this link. <http://www.nbc-2.com/story/28787491/marco-rubio-announces-presidential-run#.VTcMMfCJVZ>

## CHARTER REVIEW BOARD PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

May 28th, 2015  
6:00-8:00pm

Location: Florida SouthWestern  
State College, Lee County Campus  
Room AA-177  
8099 College Parkway SW  
Fort Myers, FL 33919

June 25th, 2015  
6:00-8:00pm

Location:  
Estero High School  
21900 River Ranch  
Road  
Ester, FL 33928

July 23rd, 2015  
6:00-8:00pm

Location:  
Mariner High School  
701 Chiquita Blvd.  
Cape Coral, FL 33993

August 27th, 2015  
6:00-8:00pm

Location:  
East Lee County High  
School  
715 Thomas Sherwin Ave.  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33974

## THE BATTLING BOYS OF BENGHAZI

We're the battling boys of Benghazi ,  
No fame, no glory, no paparazzi.  
Just a fiery death in a blazing hell,  
Defending our country we loved so well.  
It wasn't our job, but we answered the call,  
fought to the Consulate and scaled the wall.  
We pulled twenty countrymen  
from the jaws of fate  
Led them to safety and stood at the gate.  
Just the two of us and foes by the score,  
But we stood fast to bar the door.  
Three calls for reinforcement, but all were denied,  
So we fought and we fought and we fought  
'til we died.  
We gave our all for our Uncle Sam,  
But Barack and Hillary didn't give a damn.  
Just two dead Seals who carried the load  
No thanks to us...we were just  
"Bumps In The Road".



Glen Doherty, Navy Seal

Tyrone Woods, Navy Seal

## ONE OF THE MOST DESPICABLE THINGS...

*By Mary Snyder*

One of the most despicable things that I have ever seen is the terrible 2012 Benghazi attack which took place on the evening of September 11, 2012. Islamic militants attacked the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith.

Several hours later, a second assault targeted a different compound about one mile away, killing two Navy SEALs, Tyrone S. Woods and Glen Doherty. Ten others were also injured in the attacks.

It has been almost three years now. The Obama administration lied to us about what started it and many of Hillary Clinton's emails that could give us some insight into Benghazi are still missing. The ones that have been turned over were hand selected. What is the Obama administration or Hillary trying to hide? They allowed these men to die. They could have sent help, but refused.

Don't let Hillary Clinton or President Obama get away with murder. Send letters to your congressmen to put the pressure on to expedite the investigation. Trey Goudy, who heads up the investigation, cannot move ahead unless he gets the information that he has asked for time and time again. Contact U.S. Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio and also Representative Curt Clawson today.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL LEGISLATURE

Click on the links below to contact your senators and representative in Washington. You must fill in your name and address before your message. They all have multiple offices and phone numbers.

<http://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

<http://www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill>

<http://clawson.house.gov/contact/>

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATURE

You can easily email any state representative by going to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)  
Lee County's Delegation:

<b>Matt Caldwell</b>	<a href="mailto:Matt.caldwell@myfloridahouse.gov">Matt.caldwell@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
<b>Dane Eagle</b>	<a href="mailto:Dane.eagle@myfloridahouse.gov">Dane.eagle@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
<b>Heather Fitzenhagen</b>	<a href="mailto:Heather.fitzenhagen@myfloridahouse.gov">Heather.fitzenhagen@myfloridahouse.gov</a>
<b>Ray Rodrigues</b>	<a href="mailto:Ray.rodrigues@myfloridahouse.gov">Ray.rodrigues@myfloridahouse.gov</a>

**You can easily email any state Senator by going to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)**

<b>Lizbeth Benaquisto</b>	<a href="mailto:Benacquisto.lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov">Benacquisto.lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov</a>
<b>Garrett Richter</b>	<a href="mailto:Richter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov">Richter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov</a>

***Thank our Senators for supporting funding for hospitals!***

You can easily email your Governor by going to [www.flgov.com/contact-governor](http://www.flgov.com/contact-governor)

**Governor Rick Scott**    [Scott@myflorida.com](mailto:Scott@myflorida.com)

Chair of the Health Care Appropriations subcommittee is Speaker Pro Temp Matt Hudson

**Matt Hudson**    [matt.hudson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:matt.hudson@myfloridahouse.gov)

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Pampered  
Chef

MARY KAY®

Premier  
DESIGNS

### EVERYBODY WINS FUND RAISER!!

Ladies, we have an amazing year-round fundraiser where everybody wins! Our members can purchase everyday products from other LRWF members, knowing the profits go to the club's general fund. Our members with home-based businesses market their products and services on our new website. They will then donate a portion of their profits from direct member-to-member purchases to the club's general fund. The vendors will have increased personal volume, which helps them, and our club can have fundraising efforts and results year-round whether in a campaign or non-campaign year. Like we said, "Everybody wins"!

For more details  
on becoming a fundraising  
vendor and gaining website exposure,  
contact Rosemary Lewis at 284-6477  
or email at [lewis.rose@gmail.com](mailto:lewis.rose@gmail.com).

Purchase your Republican jewelry, tote bags and pepper spray. Priced \$10 to \$25.  
To purchase contact Rosemary Lewis at 239-284-6477.



Pepper Spray  
\$10.00

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Update on the 2015 Legislative Session...

Stay tuned for info on the Special Session to complete the budget by July 1.

<http://flsenate.gov>

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

LRWF was well represented at the Spring Convention by Doris Cortese, Rosemary Lewis, Carmen Salomé, Mary Snyder, Missi Lastra, Marge Nelson and me, Donna Clarke.

Respectfully,  
Donna Clarke  
Legislative Chair  
[rotarydonna@gmail.com](mailto:rotarydonna@gmail.com)

## MEMORIAL DAY DEDICATION SERVICE

Come to the Military Museum May 25th at 1:00 PM, located at 4820 Leonard St., Cape Coral and join us in honoring our veterans. Mayor Marni Sawicki will be reading a Proclamation designating Cape Coral as a Purple Heart City. There will be *Guns and Hoses Bagpipers*, the *American Patrol Patriotic Band* and much more. Free refreshments.

## AN INVITATION FROM CARMEN

LRWF - Ladies in Red: Join Carmen at the next Hispanic Chamber luncheon scheduled for May 6th at Cantina Laredo. Let's wear RED and network with local the business community. Lunch cost is \$18. Make a new friend and invite her to our May 11th luncheon.

## REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

The week end of April 17-18, all of the current potential Presidential candidates spoke in New Hampshire at the "First in the Nation Presidential Summit." It is great to see the power of the Republican Party vs. the Democrats for the 2016 cycle. We have many well-qualified candidates. If the candidates remain positive in the Primary and respect each other and the people show unity for the nominee, we can win in 2016.

To listen to the candidates' speeches, please click on the link below

<http://www.c-span.org/search/?sdate=&edate=&searchtype=Videos&sort=Best+Match&text=0&all%5b%5d=republican&all%5b%5d=leadership&all%5b%5d=summit&show100=>

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB



## THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES APRIL 2015



*The girls visited the Memorial Museum honoring our veterans this past month!*

*Top row from left to right are Lucy Breitung, Mary Palazzo, Carol Beaumont and Therese Everly.  
Bottom row sitting are Rosemary Lewis, Carmen Salomé, Doris Cortese, Wally Cortese and Renie Frank.*



*LRWF supports local business chamber event....  
Pictured with Carmen Salomé is Roberto Arreola,  
Chairman of the SWF Hispanic Chamber board and  
Carmen Rey-Gomez, Chamber board member.*

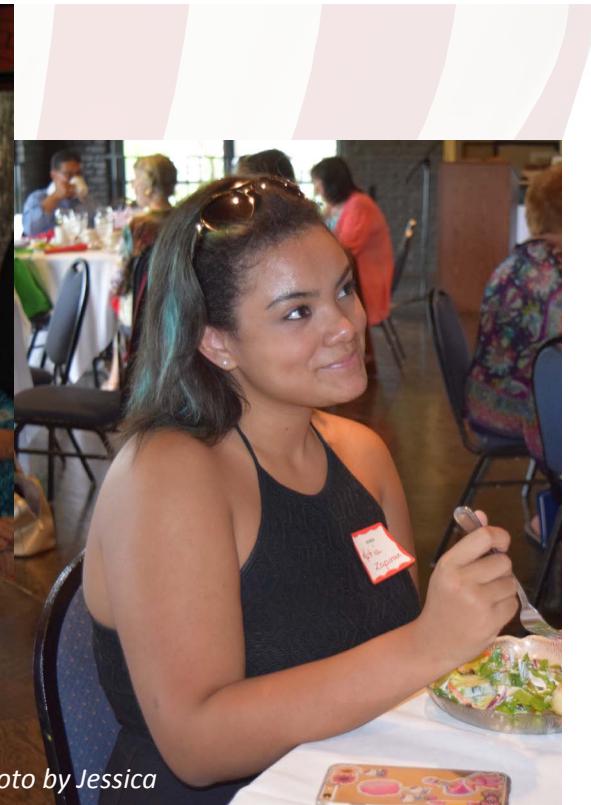


*Photo by Jessica  
Donna Clarke speaks to the group at our monthly meeting. She told us about the state budget and the four billion dollar difference between the House and Senate to be used for Medicaid.*



*John Fernandez Photography*

*Katia Zapirain and Jessica Armstrong are best friends! Jessica is a new student member and brought Katia as her guest.*



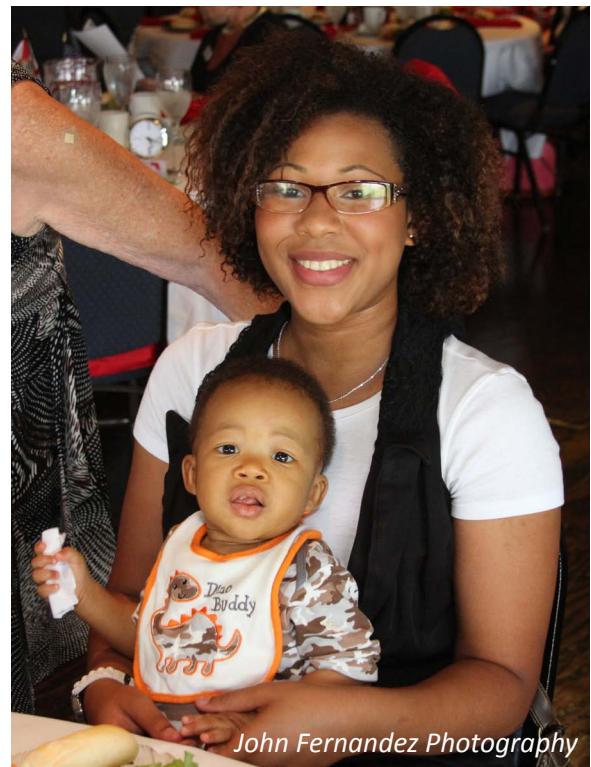
*Photo by Jessica*

*Katia Zapirain enjoys a salad before her dinner.*



*Photo by Jessica*

*Michael Bogliole candidate for Cape Coral City Council, tells us that he would not raise taxes in Cape Coral.*



*John Fernandez Photography*

*One of the mothers from Lifeline Family Center shows off her beautiful baby and tells us her story.*



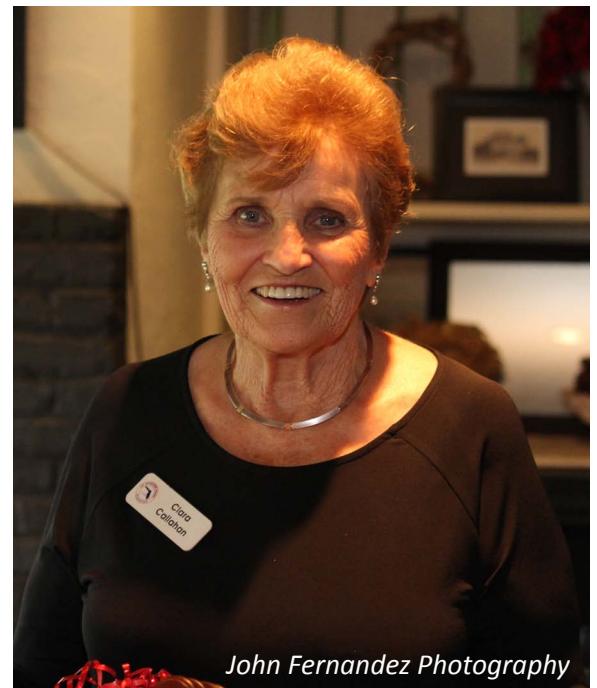
Photo by Jessica

Left to right are Jeanie Dozier, Renie Frank, Mary Ann Hansen, Marge Nelson and Bonnie Knoll.  
They are happy greeters! Who wouldn't love these ladies?



Photo by Jessica

José Mallea, our guest speaker, fills us in about  
his very exciting life with high political figures!



John Fernandez Photography

Clara Calahan addresses the group!  
Doesn't she look happy?  
Republicans are such happy people!



*Photo by Jessica*

Carmen Salomé introduced our guest speaker José Mallea.

IF YOU MISSED  
ALL OF THIS FUN...  
MAKE SURE YOU  
GO TO THE NEXT  
LUNCHEON MEETING  
ON MAY 11TH



*Photo by Jessica*

*We had a FULL HOUSE!*