

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



*Jose Mallea, National Strategic Director,
LIBRE Initiative*

Staff Andrew H. Card, Jr. Next, he joined the U.S. Department of State as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Commercial and Business Affairs and was responsible for the Near Eastern Affairs Region. In 2004 Mallea received a Superior Honor Award from the U.S. Department of State for his work as part of the Economic Bureau's Iraq Reconstruction Task Force. He continued his service in the Department of State as Associate Director in the Office of White House Liaison until February of 2005. He then returned to Miami, Florida where he served as Chief of Staff to then Mayor of the City of Miami, Manny Diaz, from 2005 to 2007. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Mallea founded his own firm, JM Global Consulting. In 2010, he joined the Marco Rubio for U.S. Senate Campaign where he served as Campaign Manager. Politico Magazine rated it the No. 1 best executed campaign of the 2010 election cycle.

THE MAHOUT

The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

MARCH 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.*

JOSE MALLEA

José Mallea has more than 15 years of political and public policy experience. He began his involvement in politics and government in 1996 as youth coordinator for the Bob Dole for President Campaign in Miami-Dade County. In 1998 he served as Regional Field Director in the Jeb Bush for Governor Campaign in Florida and later served as Deputy Political Director for Florida Victory 2000 for the George W. Bush Presidential campaign. José also served as a Presidential Appointee for the Administration of George W. Bush from 2001- 2005; at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 2001-2002 serving as Special Assistant to SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto and later as Special Assistant and Personal Aide to White House Assistant and Personal Aide to White House Chief of



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader."
Samuel Adams

LRWF MARCH DINNER MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, April 13th, at the Edison Restaurant. The keynote speaker will be Jose Mallea, National Strategic Director, Libre initiative.

The dinner menu will be seared salmon with rice and seasonal vegetables or caprese grilled chicken penne garlic olive oil, roma tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, chopped basil and balsamic reduction. Seasonal cake for dessert.

- \$22 inclusive
- 5:15 PM Social Time / Dinner and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 4/8/15

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/?page_id=1089.

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:

*Angelina Spencer
Empowerment Enterprises
"Human Trafficking in SWF"*

NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

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



Doris Cortese, LRWF President

Ladies,

Seven of our members had the wonderful experience of going to Tally Days which is the statewide spring Federated convention on March 28-31.

Being a first time attendee, I had no idea what to expect. Spending time with 100 dedicated Republican women for three days is like a little bit of heaven here on earth.

Our main speaker was Douglas Wood, author of *Presidential Intentions*. The book is fictional about a woman running for president. He was very interesting. The next speaker gave us a lot of information on how few women elected officials there are...only one female Republican in the US Congress. As Federated members, we need to encourage qualified (not Hillary Clinton or Elizabeth Warren) women to run for office.

Many of the state senators and representatives met with us and explained what bills they are introducing and why they feel the bill is necessary. Donna Clarke took us on a tour of the Capital Building, and late Monday, we met with Lizbeth

Benacquisto and three of our state reps...Caldwell, Eagle and Rodriques. They talked extensively about what they are doing. There was a State Representative, Jennifer Sullivan, who spoke to us. She is only 23 and is so vibrant and intelligent...a real role model for our young women.

Our own Carmen Salomé was given an award as outstanding regional director. Congratulations, Carmen!!!!

Pat yourselves on the back, ladies. Our club was given the *Paint the State Red* award for the hardest working Federation in the state during 2014. It was quite an honor.

The fall convention will be October 9 - 12 in Orlando. Since it is closer to home, and the rooms will be only \$99.00, I would encourage all of you who can attend to do so.

There is a possibility that Marco Rubio and another presidential candidate plus our own Governor Scott will be speaking. It should be a great weekend.

Respectfully,

Doris Cortese
LRWF, President

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Rosemary Lewis has been a registered Republican since coming of voting age. She moved from Akron, Ohio to sunny Florida nine years ago. S

he has a Master's Degree in Nursing and taught nursing students at FSW State College. Before moving to Florida, she worked at an Area Agency on Aging as a High Risk Case Management Supervisor. Her background is in Cardiac and Gerontology.

Rosemary worked as a poll worker and an active volunteer for the 2012 Republican presidential race. She was the LRWF Program Chairman last year and is the First Vice President of LRWF.

She looks forward to serving our club in the future to promote education and advancement of the Republican Party membership. She enjoys reading and outdoor activities with family and friends.

Thanks Rosemary for helping us "Paint the State Red!"



Rosemary Lewis

MEMBERSHIP

EACH ONE, ASK ONE....

Membership involves the whole club! Membership involves you!
(A roster of members and their guests will be kept throughout 2015!
At the end of the year, we will use these names for a prize drawing.)

You've noticed we've had some wonderful programs the past year and I just bet you've mentioned them to your family and friends.

Did you, however, forget to invite those same folks to attend one of our meetings? Our LRWF bylaws permit men who are registered Republicans to become Associate Members. Why not ask your husband or partner to attend a meeting and join as an Associate.

We'd love to see more fellows at our functions. Dues are only \$15.00 a year. If you have a girl friend in another federated Republican Womens club, she also can become an Associate of our club for \$15.00. The money collected for this type of membership stays in our local unit.

Since women love competition, we've established the EACH ONE, ASK ONE campaign this year...If you invite a guest who joins our club, you will be put into a drawing later in the year. I promise, the prize will be nice. **See you at the April meeting and bring your fellow!**

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Patty Stanczik
8661 Wesleyan Drive
Apt. 823
Fort Myers, FL 33919-5270
239-560-0489
stancpa@kellyservices.com

Chris Patricca
11433 Pembroke Run
Estero, FL 33928-3252
518-281-2283
christinepatricca@gmail.com

Linda Suter
8260 Southwind Bay Circle
Fort Myers, FL 33908-6028
239-340-9807
jandlsuter@comcast.net

Janet R. Grier
10751 Ravenna Way
Fort Myers, FL 33913-7013
239-322-2429
JGrier@COMCAST.NET

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

John Fernandez
3150 Sherwood Circle #201
Fort Myers, FL 33907-6507
239-571-6293
john@johnfernandezphotography.net

CURRENT TOTALS

126 Full Members
28 Associate Members
1 Student

Total of 155 membership

The LRWF Book Chat met this past month at the home of Rosemary Lewis. The book, *American Dreams*, by Marco Rubio, was discussed. Seven members were in attendance.

The Book Chat will meet April 29, at the home of Cheryl Harris. We will be discussing the book, *Hands Off My Gun*, by Dana Loesch. We would love to have you come and share with us.

All are welcome.

Please RSVP by April 22, by phone or email. We will serve beverages and snacks. If you care to bring wine, feel free. This is a wonderful way to meet our members who share common values.

Cheryl lives in Reflection Lakes. You will enter at gate 4. Gate pass code is 13970. Turn left at the stop sign and look for the balloon at 13970 Lake Mahogany Blvd. We will help you with parking as you arrive.

For a map, [CLICK HERE](#). We look forward to seeing you!

Cheryl and Mindy

Cheryl
239-225-7390
timcherylharris@aol.com

Mindy
239-288-7130
mindy7156@yahoo.com





The Great LRWF Shootout!

Thanks to everyone who supported our 2015 *LRWF BBQ SHOOTOUT!* We made a profit of \$1,935.00. Paul Flores was the lucky winner of the Glock 26.

A special thanks for the outstanding work of our fundraising committee for this event. Pat Randolph, Chairman, Renie Frank, Barbara Koeplinger, Linda Loudin and Kerri Tonkin. These ladies worked very hard organizing this event. Pat Randolph had a special talent of organizing and sharing her enthusiasm throughout.

Thanks to all the members who donated and solicited items for our raffle. The BBQ lunch catered by Reuben's was delicious. The Deputy Sheriffs at the gun range were informative and helpful and tried to make everyone have an enjoyable experience. A *shoutout* of thanks to them!



Shootout Chairperson Pat Randolph with one of the Sheriff's deputies.



Doris Cortese (LRWF President), Pat Randolph (Shootout Chair) and Rosemary Lewis (LRWF Vice President and Fundraising Chair) are busy planning the Shootout!



Left to right...Shootout committee members, Barb Koeplinger, Linda Loudin, Renie Frank, Pat Randolph and Rosemary Lewis.



Carmen Salomé

News Press Editorial Board Member

CARMEN SALOMÉ WRITES HER FIRST EDITORIAL

As you know, if you read last month's newsletter, Carmen Salomé was appointed to the News Press editorial board. We thought you might be interested in seeing her very first editorial. The text below is from her original copy. Please read below.

"Self-reliance is the only road to true freedom, and being one's own person is its ultimate reward"....Patricia Sampson

When my parents came to the United States from Puerto Rico, all they knew was hard work and to rely on the community for support. Our faith, family and community were central in our lives. I have always believed that our purpose was to help others. For me, helping others is evident in the projects I have become involved with. Seven years ago, I helped start a GED tutoring ministry at my church, because I knew first hand an education can open doors to better job opportunities. As a single mother of two children, with only a high school diploma, I struggled working minimum wage jobs to pay the rent and feed the boys. For a short time I also utilized public assistance. I could have stayed on that track like so many others in my neighborhood. But I wanted to provide a life better than peanut butter and government cheese

for my sons. Inspired by Christian values and a strong work ethic, I set out to change my situation. I searched for agencies that would help me with work training. It wasn't until I completed a medical secretary course that I secured a better paying job in a large healthcare facility. This opportunity exposed me to working alongside people with professional degrees that saw great potential in me. One such professional encouraged me to seek a college education. I discovered with each college degree I completed, another door to a position with more responsibility and better pay opened. The road ahead was not easy and certainly not cheap. I had to obtain student loans for the training and then again for college. I admit the financial burden was heavy, but looking back, the reward of accomplishment and self confidence far outweighed that burden.

I can remember working as a bilingual secretary for a school district up north and was saddened to see the number of Latino families on government assistance as a way of life. Families that moved into the area from various Hispanic countries, would come to enroll their children in school and ask for the necessary paperwork verification needed to take to the welfare office. Some arrived to our offices before we opened at 8 am; some arriving by bus or taxi; but all wanting the same verification documentation. It was sad to see that much energy put into staying dependent. I asked one mom, why she moved to our area with no family around to help her. She responded she moved to our area because the welfare benefits there were higher. So in essence, she got a raise. In another interview of a pregnant 13 year old girl, I asked her what she was going to do to support herself and her baby. She answered in Spanish, "Well...welfare of course." There were no agencies to help people, new to the area, see their human potential; that there IS a future! Many of these people believed that they could not overcome language barriers or lack of education. I often would tell our clients, "I am no different than you. If I could change my situation, so can you."

I am blessed that I have achieved much in my life, and I want to help others find the same success. That's why I am passionate about the Freedom and Virtue Institute's Self Reliance Clubs. The Self Reliance Clubs emphasize to students the connection between reward and accomplishment and relying on their individual gifts to create their destiny. Currently, 507 students participate in Self Reliance Clubs in Lee and Collier county schools. 85% of the children participating are Hispanic. This initiative is impacting a large segment of our community! What better way to impact the cycle of poverty in the lives of these children than to encourage and nurture the inherent gifts we all have that allow us to move forward and succeed.

I challenge the Hispanic leaders of our community to get involved in this initiative. Consider joining the board, become a sponsor of the annual golf tournament fundraiser, write about it in your Spanish newspapers and report on it in the Spanish local TV news. If you are a Hispanic business owner, support the children of the Self Reliance club by mentoring – share with them how you achieved your goals and succeeded in business - or fund a work project. The students need to know you care about them enough to help them be the best they can be. Frederick Douglass, former slave turned statesman, once said "if there is no struggle, there is no progress." Isn't it preferable to teach a child that they can earn the things they need through work, saving and patience rather than expect "free stuff?" They don't need a hand out, they need a hand up!

The annual Self Reliance Club Charity Golf Classic is March 19th at Old Corkscrew Golf Course. Don't miss this opportunity to positively impact the lives of the children in SWF!

Carmen Salomé,

News Press Citizen Editorial Board, Board Member
Freedom and Virtue Institute, Board Member

» SILPADA®
find yourself in it.



The Pampered
Chef

WORLDVENTURES

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 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 website exposure, contact Rosemary Lewis at 284-6477 or email at lewis.rose@gmail.com.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Update on the 2015 Legislative Session

The 2015 Legislative Session has passed the half way point and this week, the budget should be passed out of the House and the Senate so negotiations can begin! Remember – Passing the Budget is the only action the legislature must take by May 1, 2015. If they run out of time, the session may be extended or a special session scheduled. When a special session is scheduled the specific subject (for example Health care funding) of the session is also listed in the notice.

Currently, the big money issues are Education (funding per pupil), Health Care (Hospital uninsured patient grants, health insurance for 100%- 138% federal poverty level), Implementation of Amendment 1 (doc stamp dollars for land maintenance, restoration and purchase). The House and the Senate have allocated these dollars very differently so there could be lengthy negotiations as they work through the approximately \$77 Billion budget. Next month we will review some of the Bills the Legislature is passing. For specific bills you may go to these websites for current status, sponsors, and staff analysis.

<http://flsenate.gov>

<http://myfloridahouse.gov>

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

Respectfully,

Donna Clarke

Legislative Chair

rotarydonna@gmail.com



THE CRUSADES VS. JIHAD AND ISIS

Many like to compare the Muslim invasion of Isis performing Jihad in the world today to the hateful crusades of the Middle Ages. Some even like to use that as the reason that we have so many terrorists in the world today. Somehow, they think the problem lies with the Christians. If you have heard these things before and want to know the "rest of the story," click on the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO HEAR "THE REST OF THE STORY!"](#)

VOLUNTEERS CALLING ALL HOURS

Ladies and Gentlemen, have you volunteered to work from July 2013 through June 2015 for the campaigns of any state, county or city elected officials? Have you volunteered to work for the state or county? Have you volunteered to work at a precinct or ward? Have you volunteered and participated in a county, district, or state party convention? Have you perhaps worked on a committee or served on our board for Lee Republican Women Federated?

Every two years our club submits campaign volunteer hours to the National Federation of Republican Women to participate in the Campaign Award program with a chance at recognition and a possible award. Hours spent working for our club are also recognized through Achievement Awards. If you have volunteered doing any of the above, please forward those hours spent doing such work to me, kerri.tonkin@gmail.com, by the first of May 2015, if not sooner. You can also bring them to the next few meetings and I will be there to collect them. There is a PDF document on the LRWF website with an explanation sheet and spreadsheet for you to use to document your hours. To find the explanation and spreadsheet, [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you,

Kerri Tonkin
Elections Chair

LEE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEMS UPDATE

By Donna Clarke, Lee Memorial Health System Board Member

What the hospital board has done this year to meet capacity demands:

- Opened 42 additional beds at Cape Coral Hospital
- Created new surge overflow holding areas
- Added Tele-Stroke capabilities
- Hired 12 Primary Care Physicians and 13 Primary care extenders in 2014 (25 total)
- Opened a new Lee Convenient Care near HealthPark
- Fast Track processes implemented in all four Emergency Depts along with creative ideas to decompress Emergency Departments and improve patient flow
- Emergency Dept Physicians working in Lee Convenient Cares to extend hours
- Working with Hospitalists on Average Length of Stay and early discharges
- Several Lean Value Stream Mapping events completed across the System working on throughput and patient flow
- Cape Coral Hospital became a Primary Stroke Center to help keep patients in the Cape
- Continued close Partnership/Collaboration/Communication with Lee County EMS
- Leveraged the LMHS Transfer Center to level out volumes throughout the health system
- Graduate Medical Program up and running
- Many Lee Physician Group offices freeing up same day appointments to help decompress emergency departments
- New Federally Qualified Health Clinic approved earlier this month will increase outpatient access
- New Capacity Committee formed to brainstorm and execute solutions in tandem with key physicians and staff
- New System Surge Disaster Plan and structure created; lead by Dr. Krivenko and activated if the System is significantly over capacity

During 2015 for the 2016 winter season, with Board approval, plans are to:

- Build additional inpatient holding areas at Lee Memorial Hospital, Gulf Coast Medical Center and HealthPark (45 total beds)
- Institute a new Community Care Coordination program to help navigate patients to the right healthcare setting and decompress the emergency departments
- Recruit and hire a goal of 27 primary care providers
- Open a new Lee Convenient Care Center in Fort Myers, an Outpatient Center in Cape Coral and possibly a Lee Physician Group rotating specialty clinic
- Explore potential telehealth primary care visits.

In Spring 2017, the board anticipates the completion of construction at Golisano Children's Hospital (adds 45 adult beds at HealthPark) and in late 2017 we anticipate completion of South Lee medical campus, giving us additional outpatient and emergency department capacity.



Top, left to right are Gulf Coast Hospital and Cape Coral Hospital. Bottom, left to right are Healthpark and Lee Memorial.

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES
MARCH 2015



Our ladies gather at the Eagle Forum's 35th Anniversary Luncheon with Curt Clawson. Top row from left to right are Linda Loudin, Barb Koeplinger, Sharon Gibson, Curt Clawson, Cindy Lignelli and Nona Nychyk. Bottom row from left to right are Mary Jo Hoyman, Renie Frank and Judy O'Donnell. This luncheon honored the Eagle Forum's Founder and National Hero, Phyllis Schlafly. The event took place on March 13th in Naples.



Same ladies as above at the Eagle Forum with Michelle Bachman who was the keynote speaker. Top row from left to right are Barb Koeplinger, Linda Loudin, Sharon Gibson, Michelle Bachman, Cindy Lignelli and Nona Nychyk. Bottom row from left to right are Mary Jo Hoyman, Renie Frank and Judy O'Donnell. Proceeds from the luncheon are to benefit the Eagle Forum Collegians Program that sends students to Washington to meet with conservative leaders. Remarks and reflections were given by Phyllis Schlafly.

Phyllis Schlafly is an American constitutional lawyer, conservative activist, author, and speaker and founder of the Eagle Forum.

MONTHLY MEETING...MARCH 2015



Wren Morefield at the March LRWF luncheon.



Kathleen Smith, Public Defender, 20th Judicial Circuit Court smiles brightly.



Mary Jo Hoyman in her pretty flowered jacket!



Borden Flint, a long time member...you probably recognize her from the registration table. She's a great helper!



Gale Langner and Marj Tyrer enjoy a friendly conversation!



Two pretty girls... Allison Hopkins, District Aide to Heather Fitzenhagen, and Kelsey Gorry, Dane Eagle's District Aide.



Carmen Salomé, LRWF Program Chair and 2nd Vice President, posing with our guest speaker, Ralph Santillo, Founder/President of Invest in America's Veterans Foundation.



Left, Pat Randolph, Shootout Chair, with Paul Flores, winner of the Glock 26.

TALLY DAYS 2015



President of LRWF, Doris Cortese, receives an award for being the #1 club in the state for the "Paint the State Red" contest. President of the FFRW, Cynthia Henderson, gives Doris a hug along with the award. Everyone loves Doris!



Carmen Salomé , LRWF 2nd Vice President, receives an "Effectiveness" award from Cynthia Henderson, President FFRW.



Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto gives her seat to Doris Cortese, President LRWF. Also shown left to right are Mary Snyder (Newsletter Chair), Donna Clarke (Legislation Chair and Lee Health Board), Carmen Salomé (LRWF 2nd Vice President and Program Chair), Lizbeth Benacquisto (Florida Senate), Missi Lastra (LRWF Web Site Chair), Marge Nelson (LRWF Member), and Rosemary Lewis (LRWF 1st Vice President and Fund Raising Chair).



Left to right is Doris Cortese (President LRWF), Pastor Patti Warner (FFRW State Chaplin) and Rosemary Lewis (LRWF 1st Vice President) enjoy a reunion. Pastor Patti was our guest speaker in our December monthly meeting.



Mary Snyder, Newsletter Chair, was nominated to be a delegate at the national convention.



Marge Nelson jokes and laughs with Dr. Ben Carlson, possible 2016 Republican candidate for the presidency.



Marge Nelson has a lot to say to Dr. Ben Carlson..... Wait!!! Is that a cardboard dummy???



*Really girls??? A selfie with a cardboard dummy???
Sheesh!*



Girls just love to buy jewelry! In the foreground are Carmen Salomé (left) and Doris Cortese (right). In the background are FFRW women.



LRWF Elephantini Basket that was taken to be raffled.





Here's the group with Representatives Dane Eagle, Ray Rodriques and Matt Caldwell all behind the group. We are in Dane Eagle's office discussing their legislations. They gave us all time to state our concerns as well.

**JUST A FEW OF THE SPEAKERS...
THERE WERE MANY MORE!**



*Marty Bowen,
FFRW District Executive*



*Carol Jean Jordan
Tax Collector - Indian River Co.
FFRW Past President*



*Douglas J. Wood
Author
"Presidential Intentions"*



*Latanya Peterson
Florida State Director
African American Engagement
Republican National Committee*



*Cynthia Henderson
President FFRW*



*Robert M. Levy
Robert M. Levy and Associates,
Lobbyist*



*Jennifer Sullivan
Representative of District 4
Lake County*



*Jamie Miller
Political Consultant*