

## 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

## RALPH SANTILLO

Ralph Santillo began the Invest in America's Veterans Foundation six years ago. Its mission is to honor and serve our local veterans. Today, the organization is housed in an old Sweet Bay building on Cape Coral Parkway which has been converted into an office space, thrift store, mess hall and museum. The museum exhibits are all donated by family members of veterans and military organizations. The entire operation is manned by volunteers! Invest in America volunteers have assisted hundreds of veterans and families in finding jobs, furthering their education, career changes, finding affordable housing and providing professional counseling for their specific needs and helping veterans of all ages.

Santillo says: "My personal commitment to help our veterans stems from my respect and knowledge of the sacrifices that they have made over the years. I am determined to be of service to all Veterans of any age while I am physically and mentally able to do so. I believe in the "Greatest Generation" because I grew up through the best parts of it with 7 Uncles who served in WWII."

Santillo will speak at the upcoming LRWF monthly meeting about the growth of the foundation and the military museum.

# 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.*



Ralph Santillo  
Founder/President

*Invest in America's Veterans Foundation*



## 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 FEBRUARY LUNCH MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, March 9th, at the Edison Restaurant. The keynote speaker will be Ralph Santillo, Founder and President of Invest in America's Veterans Foundation, Inc. Santillo began the foundation six years ago. Its mission is to honor and serve our local veterans.

The lunch includes chicken cobb salad with grilled chicken and cheesecake for dessert.

- \$18 inclusive
- 11:10 AM Social Time / Lunch and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 3/4/15

*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](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:

Jose Mallea, National Strategic  
Director/Miami Libre Initiative

## 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*

### ***March 7 is the Shoot Out at the Sheriff's shooting range in Buckingham!***

We still have event tickets and raffle tickets for a Glock gun. This is one of our big fundraisers, and we need your support. To get tickets call Pat Randolph at 678-425-7157 or email her at [prand1946@gmail.com](mailto:prand1946@gmail.com).

The Florida State Legislature will be in session from March 9th to the first week of May. There are many issues they will be discussing such as: waterways protection, budget, guns on campus, common core and etc. As conservative Republicans, it is important that we let our state representatives and state senator know our feelings regarding the bills they will be voting on. It is important that we all take time to find out what bills are being offered in Tallahassee. The only way to put pressure on them and let them know how the voters feel is if we, the voters, contact them. I am asking all of you to either write, email or phone your representative and tell them your opinion.

As we know ISIS is committing genocide against Christians and Jews in the Middle East. These people are being tortured and killed for their faith while our government stands by and does not even acknowledge these incidents. As above you can write, email or phone the administration and give them your input on this matter. It is time we stand up for our core values as Americans and Republican women.

Sincerely,

Doris Cortese  
LRWF President

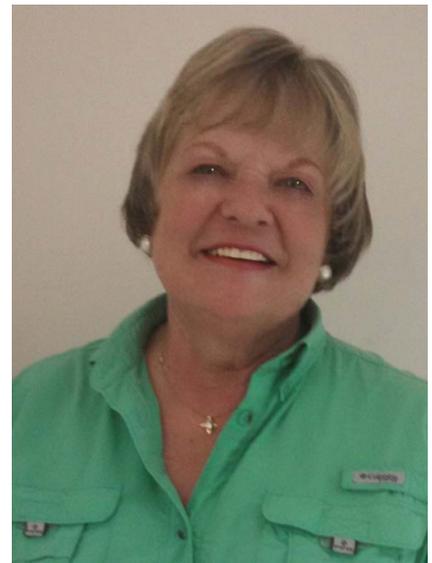
**For a calendar of Florida Legislative events, [Click Here!](#)  
To get email addresses of your legislators, [Google:](#)  
(legislator's name) contact info**

## MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Pat Randolph was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and raised in Gloucester City, New Jersey before marrying her husband, Mike. Pat and Mike just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 6, 2015.

God has graced Pat and Mike with two sons. Michael who is in the process of moving to Huntsville, Alabama and Steve, who owns a trucking company in Lawrenceville, Georgia. They have three wonderful grandchildren: Chase, a graduate of Georgia Tech; Haley, a junior at VirginiaTech; and Kaitlyn, their active 7th grader.

You would think Pat was a travel agent as she has lived in San Diego, California; Lebanon, Ohio; Orlando, Florida; Jacksonville, Florida; Asheville, North Carolina; Lawrenceville, Georgia; and their final stop, Fort Myers, Florida. She attended DeKalb College and successfully completed the Lawyer's Assistance Program by The National Center for Paralegal Training, Atlanta, Georgia.



*Pat Randolph*

Before retiring on June 15, 2012, Pat was employed by Infor Global Solutions, Alpharetta, Georgia for 25 years. Her career started out as a contract analyst with the final 10 years as Manager of Renewal Maintenance Billing for North and South America. During her tenure, she was given the opportunity to train associates in London, Paris, Hyderabad, India, and various offices throughout North America. Since retiring she watches the Florida sunsets while sitting on her deck overlooking the Caloosahatchee River. She volunteers her services at Cypress Lake United Methodist Church; and works with LRWF and the Republican party.

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

## 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.)*

### NEW ASSOCIATE TO FULL MEMBERS

Cathy Thompson  
1318 Wales Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33901-7742  
239-939-1550  
cathyt119@comcast.net

Angela J. Pruitt  
9045 Water Tupelo Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33912-9006  
239-337-8509  
239-229-3585 - cell  
ajpruitt@aol.com

### CURRENT TOTALS

**112 active members**  
**24 associate members**  
**1 student member**

**Current Total 137 members**

# 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](mailto: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



LRWF Ladies,

You are welcome to join the monthly Book Chat on March 25th. We will be reading "American Dream," authored by Marco Rubio. With the recent events involving Cuba, we thought this would be an insightful read.

Rosemay Lewis was kind enough to invite us to meet at her home from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Please bring a favorite cheese to share and a beverage of your choice. Her address is 16685 Lake Circle Drive #1017, Ft. Myers. For a map, [CLICK HERE](#).

Please respond to Melinda Moran or Cheryl Harris by 3/18. This will allow our hostess to have adequate time to plan. Come have a good time with good company.

Melinda and Cheryl

Melinda	Cheryl
239-277-4229 cell	239-848-2130 cell
239-288-7130 home	239-225-7390 home

# Buy Your Raffle Tickets

## Win a Glock 26

**Tickets \$20**

(Only 100 tickets to be sold)



## The Great LRWF Shootout! March 7th, 2014

Lee County Shooting Range  
6570 Felix Romano Ave.  
Fort Myers, FL

**Need not be present to win!  
See a committee member to purchase ticket!**

*Members can pay for tickers to shootout on line at squareup link*

***TO PAY FOR TICKETS, CLICK HERE***

### **RAFFLE PRIZES AND DONORS**

**Disney Items - Mary Martin**

**Basket - Messmer Florist**

**Mary Kay Gift Box - Gail Langner**

**Bullets 9mm - Lee Koeplinger**

**Glock Case and Ear Protection- Therese Everly**

**Cavi Lipo Treatment \$250 Value- Sculpted Beauty, Debbie Florio**

**\$50 Gift Cards -**

**Bistro 41**

**A Economical B & B Income Tax - Barb Koeplinger**

**Silpada Jewelry - Mary Snyder**

**\$25 Gift Cards -**

**Messmer Florist**

**Sculpted Beauty**

**Bass Pro**

### **FYI**

*Every woman...mother and grandmother must see  
what is happening to our children.*

**To learn more about Brigitte Gabriel's  
story, CLICK HERE.**

**BRIGITTE GABRIEL: RADICAL ISLAM:  
THE PLAN TO DESTROY AMERICA FROM WITHIN**





Here are how the potential candidates finished in the 2015 CPAC straw poll:

1. Senator Rand Paul - 25.7%
2. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker - 21.4%
3. Senator Ted Cruz - 11.5%
4. Ben Carson - 11.4%
5. Former Governor Jeb Bush - 8%
6. Former Senator Rick Santorum 4.3%
7. Senator Marco Rubio 3.7%
8. Donald Trump 3.5%
9. Carly Fiorina 3%
10. Gov. Chris Christie 2.8%
11. Former Governor Rick Perry 1.1%
12. Governor Bobby Jindal 0.9%
13. Former Governor Sarah Palin 0.8%
14. Former Governor Mike Huckabee 0.3%
15. Former Ambassador John Bolton 0.3%
16. Senator Lindsey Graham 0.1%
17. Former Governor George Pataki 0.1%

1.0% Undecided  
0.7% Other

## TOP TWO STRAW POLL WINNERS

People to watch...



Sen. Rand Paul



Gov. Scott Walker

## THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES

### FEBRUARY 2014



Ronald McDonald with Clara Calahan, left and Ronald with Clara and Donna Clarke below. The event was the Ronald McDonald House Charities 21st Annual Storybook Ball fundraising event....The RMHC helps create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children in Southwest Florida. Donna is on the board of directors of the Lee Memorial Health System.

