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Chaplain, Terri Lee
Photographer, Jessica Armstrong

ISMAEL HERNANDES

Ismael grew up in Puerto Rico in a communist family. His father, Juan, was a very committed and intellectually sophisticated Marxist. Juan was a founding member of the Movimiento Pro Independencia (Movement for Independence) that later became the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. His passion was to fight against "American imperialism" and create in Puerto Rico an independent Marxist society aligned with the Cuban Revolution.

This was in the 1960's, and Puerto Rico was a very poor country. Fired from his job after being accused of attempting a terrorist act against the American company employing him, Juan found himself jobless. For two years he went to job interviews only to have the FBI and intelligence investigators of the local police intervene to deny him opportunities. All the while, Juan continued to be active in the party and indoctrinate his children in the socialist ideal.

"I will never forget the night," says Ismael, "when my mom was inconsolably crying and ran outside to plead with FBI agents stationed in front of the house. They were there every night. She could not take it any longer and asked them to please leave. I never saw them again. I hated America for my mother's tears."

Ismael's mother, Socorro, was a humble and loving woman. Early on, she followed her husband's wishes as was common in Puerto Rican culture. At times she participated in gatherings and helped organize public meetings in front of their home. Her true interest, however, was the well-being of her four children. She worried about how she would feed her children with scarce resources. She was a nominal Catholic who prayed often but never attended Mass. In fact, she was involved in "espiritismo," a kind of religion mixing Catholicism with African beliefs. Nonetheless, she made sure that her children attended Mass with neighbors.

Ismael's life at that time became somewhat confusing to him. His mother insisted he go to church while his father was a committed communist. In his heart, he had many conflicting thoughts and questions about God. "I became very interested in Catholicism. The then-growing anti-Catholicism of Pentecostals made me very interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith. Ironically, my first Bible was given to me by a very committed Pentecostal, a wonderful man, my social studies teacher, Mr. Muñoz. And still, my commitment to socialism remained the priority in my life."

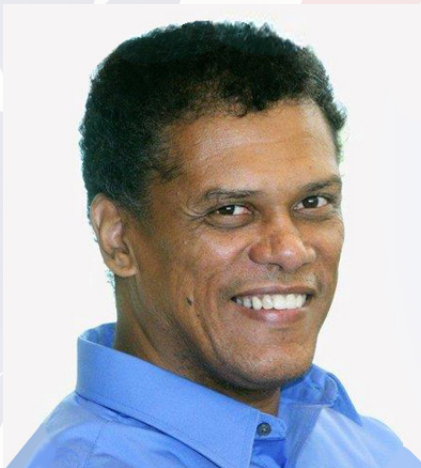
Ismael went to the University of Puerto Rico to study political sciences and joined socialist movements there. He joined the Socialist Party and worked for the party during the 1980 and 1984 elections. Later, he became active in the fight against the American involvement in the first Gulf War. "My view then was simple: We needed to destroy America and capitalism. We would not leave anything standing. Even those precious things we built with our own hands had to fall if necessary. And on the ashes of the capitalist past we would build the perfect socialist utopia."

To learn more about Ismael's fascinating story, his hatred for the United States, and how he eventually turned completely around, come to the next meeting on January 9th. Learn also about his founding of the Freedom and Virtue Institute. You will be amazed.

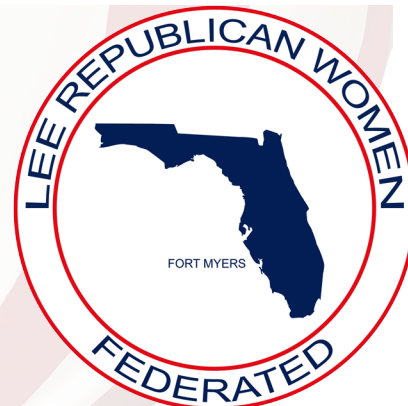
THE MAHOUT The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

January 2017

Strong Women for a Strong America



*Ismael Hernandez
Founder & President of the
Freedom & Virtue Institute*



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"To anger a conservative, lie to him. To anger a liberal, to tell him the truth."

Theodore Roosevelt

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Meet with us on Monday, January 9th at the beautiful Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers. At this meeting Ismael Hernandez, the founder & president of the Freedom & Virtue Institute will be speaking of his life in Puerto Rico & how he founded the institute.

There are three menu choices:

1. Caesar salad with grilled chicken and rolls
 2. Homemade Ham salad on a croissant with chips
 3. Plain Caesar salad with toppings on the side
- Keylime Pie Tart for dessert.

Please remember the deadline for reservations is Thursday, January 5th, at NOON.

- \$22 Inclusive
- 11:15 AM Social Time /Lunch and Program following
- Reservation Deadline 1/5/17 by noon

For reservations: Call Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or email wrenspet@hotmail.com.

To make a reservation online go to <https://squareup.com/store/lee-republican-women-federated-2>

Remember, a reservation made is a reservation paid!

Everyone MUST check in at the Reservation Desk.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Doris Cortese
LRWF President

2017 will be an exciting year.. January 20th is the inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the United States. What a wonderful way to celebrate the start of a new year and new life for our country. As Republican Women you should be very proud of your part in helping us win Florida and the country.

2018 will be a critical year with an election for governor and the US Senate in Florida. Rest up as we will need every one of you to **PAINT LEE COUNTY AND THE STATE RED.** Have a happy and healthy New Year!!!

Sincerely,

Doris Cortese
President, Lee Republican Women Federated
Member at Large, Florida Federation of Republican Women



FROM FFRW DISTRICT 7S REPRESENTATIVE
CARMEN SALOMÉ

From FFRW District 7S representative:

Happy New Year! 2017 is filled with HOPE. President-elect Trump has been busy assembling his cabinet AND bringing JOBS back to America. He is working hard for the American people already. I hope you are well rested after the holidays, because with the new year comes important municipal elections. Many of these elections are non-partisan. It is important to support the Republican candidates in those races especially the Republican women! Commit to identifying and working with these new leaders interested in serving our community in an elected capacity. Your club could consider holding workshops in campaign strategy, fundraising or messaging – crucial topics for the new candidate to master in order to WIN an election.

This month I hope you will join me at the Dr. Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast on January 16th at 7:30 am at Harborside in Fort Myers. The theme is “Unity” and after this election season – the time to unite and move forward as a community and nation is now.

Also, please Join me in congratulating Doris Cortese on being elected LCREC Vice Chairwoman for the next two years.

Carmen Salomé
FFRW District 7S Representative
“Politics is Womens Work”

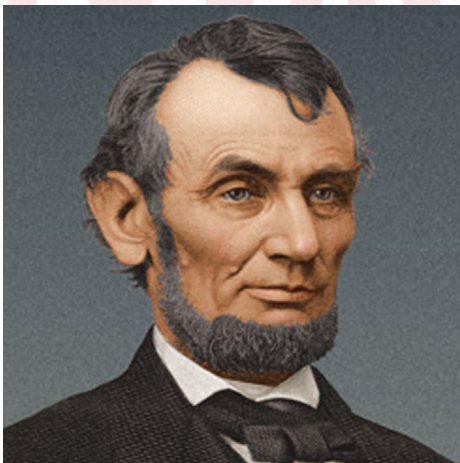
Named one of Florida's Women to Watch in 2016



Carmen Salomé
FFRW District Representative



Happy New Year to All!



LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER

LRWF has purchased three tables for anyone in our group to sit at. The tickets are \$175. This is on a first come first serve basis, so please send your check to Mindy Moran as soon as you can. John Bolton will be the guest speaker. Join us!

Friday, February 10
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point
Speaker: Ambassador John Bolton





LADIES...EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Book Chat will meet on Wednesday, January 4th. Our meeting time will be 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Mel's Diner. Come for lunch and share the elements of a great book. We are going to read, *The Team of Rivals : The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. The book was ten years in the making. It reveals that Lincoln's road to success was longer, more tortuous, and far less likely than other men. Author, Doris Kearns Goodwin, focused on fresh insights into Lincoln's leadership style and his deep understanding of human behavior and motivation.

Come join us for lunch and good company. See you at the Book Chat. If there are any question, please call or email Cheryl Harris.

Cheryl Harris
239-225-7390
timcherylharris@aol.com

TO FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK By Mary Snyder

I took the liberty of contacting our newly elected Representative Francis Rooney concerning fracking because it is up for discussion in congress. Currently there is much discussion on Capitol Hill in Washington and also on a state level concerning fracking. State Representative Ray Rodrigues, among others, is working on this issue on a state level. Like it or not...good or bad, fracking is with us and we all need to understand it better. Representative Rooney told me, "The subject of fracking, like the Okeechobee Watershed is filled with lots of disinformation." One thing I know for sure, it is truly controversial. People on one side feel that we need to use the technique of fracking to extract much needed oil from our soil, while other people are very concerned that we do not know what is going to happen to our environment as a result of fracking. The following is what Representative Rooney wrote back to me.

"There are a few principal issues and points that I am familiar with:

1. Every well is fracked. Technically, this is the process of setting off a charge in the well bore to perforate the casing and expose adjacent hydrocarbons to the well, so they can be extracted.
2. In wells which go into shale instead of liquid reservoirs, which includes almost all new wells, the process of hydraulic fracking is used. This involves the injection of a combination of chemicals, water and sand into the shale bed to expand it and drive out the hydrocarbons. Hence the use of the term "hydraulic." This is an issue of both what is put into the earth and what it may do, as well as where it might migrate, depending upon the particular substrate geology. Some geology is less hard and may present higher risk of 'migration' of the chemicals, etc. to other reservoirs of water, ruining them. Likewise some geologies react to the high pressure differently. We have sub-soil here (in Florida) which is suspect at minimum and many are calling for a thorough geological study of our calcium carbonate geology to determine scientifically what the risks are.
3. Horizontal wells pose an additional complication because they can go down and then run as far as two miles horizontally in the ground. The hydraulic fracking applied in these "long laterals" involves many "frac stages." The charges are set off and chemicals etc. are injected under high pressure, as many 30 in a two mile lateral, which magnify the risks noted above.
4. In any well there is risk of defective performance, especially as regards cementing the well bore, and rigorous quality control is essential.
5. The surface and air environmental risks are considerations- not insurmountable, but costly- recycling as much of the one million gallons of water used, limiting site surface, using compressed natural gas instead of diesel in the generators used to power up the fracking, etc. For example, Laredo Petroleum, which I was board member of, recycles almost 80% of its water, controls emissions of volatile oxides into the air and uses CNG as fuel.

Overall, it is not good or bad. It is a technology that is necessary to assure a safe and secure energy supply to the US, but it might not be appropriate everywhere, and there may be places where the additional risks of horizontal wells, instead of just traditional vertical ones, are not justified."

State Representative Ray Rodrigues emailed me on the State perspective and said the following. "In Florida, fracking is currently legal and can be conducted without a specific permit. All a company has to do is apply for a conventional permit and then notify DEP via a work over notice that they intend to utilize unconventional means of extraction. Under current state law, the companies do not have to reveal the names of the chemicals that they are putting into the ground in the fracking process.

From a scientific perspective, all of the studies that have been done researching the environmental effects of fracking have been done in areas where the geology is shale based. Here in Southwest Florida, our geology is limestone based, so those other shale-based studies are irrelevant to the situation in Florida.

Given these facts, for the past four years I have proposed and passed legislation in the House that would:

1. Fund a peer-reviewed scientific study on the environmental effects of fracking here in Florida on a limestone based geology
2. Place a moratorium on the practice of fracking in Florida until the study has been completed and safety has been assured
3. Require companies to declare if they plan to utilize conventional or unconventional means of extraction and establish a separate permitting process for each type
4. Require a company to disclose ALL chemicals used in the process to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

In the upcoming Session, there will be proposals to just ban the practice of fracking and fund the scientific study. This effort is led by environmental extremists who do not want to see any fossil fuels utilized in the United States. I believe energy independence is important for this country and fracking may play a critical role in reducing our dependence on oil from the Middle East. If an independent scientific study indicates that the practice is not safe for Florida's unique geology, then it would be appropriate to consider a ban. However, in this county we have a long history of holding a trial before the determination of guilt. To ban the practice before there is any scientific basis would be to act on emotion rather than facts. As a nation that respects property rights, it is critical that we act on facts and not emotions when the proposed actions take away those property rights. This has become an issue that many extreme environmental organizations are using for fundraising purposes. One might wonder if these groups are really interested in finding solutions."

In addition to the above explanations, Rep. Rooney also gave me a couple of links to videos that more fully explains fracking with its pros and cons.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo8o2nTXhb0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VY34PQUiwOQ>



*Florence Mabel Kling Harding
1860 - 1924
Wife of President Warren G. Harding*

AMERICANISM *Republican First Ladies*

By Pat Baldwin

The Strange Death of President Harding by Gaston B. Means was a best seller in the late 1920's. The author's supposition was that Harding had been murdered. This was shocking but not as shocking as his claim that the culprit was the First Lady.

What would make Means think that? How would she have done the deed? What was her motive? What would have driven her to do in the POTUS?

Well, first of all Warren Gamaliel Harding was five years younger than his wife. They had been married for 32 years at the time of his death in 1923. The motive could have been his numerous love affairs, some with her best friends. One tryst happened while she was hospitalized. Another paramour tried to blackmail them. And then there was the embarrassment of his having had an illegitimate child.

Florence has been the one who managed Harding's newspaper, The MARION STAR, so he could run for political office. It was she who was left doing the heavy lifting while he toured the country probably happily bed hopping.

They had reached the apex of his career. He was POTUS and she was the First Lady. It was all happening just like the Florence's friend and clairvoyant, Madame Marcia Champrey, had predicted; WGH would become President. But Madame also said, he would die in office.

Florence had given so much. Supposedly, she had influenced his cabinet choices, and wrote his inaugural speech. She threw elegant parties. She was a modern FLOTUS: flying in planes, showing after-dinner movies, serving alcohol during prohibition. The war veterans loved her for her constant and unfailing support of them.

She had a lifelong love of all animals and fought for their protection. She was a horse whisperer. The Harding's dog, Laddie-Boy, an Airedale, became the nation's mascot used to promote animal welfare rights.

As a former newspaper publisher, she was not shy about giving her opinion on anything from the League of Nations, to women's suffrage.

Now here she was, 63 years of age, two years as First Lady, and an opportunity to take her dream trip to Alaska. Her husband didn't want to go. Was this the last straw? Alaska was her dream. It was on her bucket list. She didn't care. They were going!

Using her bucket list as the impetus for getting her husband to kick the bucket, could have been the method considering his health which wasn't good...at all. He suffered from neurasthenia, congestive heart disease, cramps, indigestion, and shortness of breath. Added to this, his doctor explicitly told him his dalliances, apparently very energetic encounters, would damage his heart. And his homeopathic companion, "Dr." Charles Sawyer, who would accompany them on the 15,000 mile trip, favored treating him with purgatives and laxatives, and arsenic injections to stimulate his heart. He was a time bomb waiting to blow. And blow it did. He got deadly ill in British Columbia but rallied and went on to San Francisco and then died.

The First Lady was grief stricken when he died. She couldn't bare looking at Laddie-Boy so she gave him to her Secret Service agent. A year later, she became ill with renal failure and died. She is buried next to WGH in their hometown of Marion, Ohio.

Florence was the oldest of three children of Amos Kling, a hardware store owner and banker, and his wife, Louisa Mabel Bouton.

She completed three years of high school studying math, English, writing, surveying, rhetoric, logic, philosophy, history, geography, Latin, Greek, German, cartology, and astronomy. She studied music at the Cincinnati Conservatory, and handled her father's store accounts.

Then she ran away to live with a ner'er-do-well, Henry Atherton De Wolfe. Two years later, Henry, an alcoholic working in a roller skating rink, abandoned his wife and infant son, Marshall Eugene. Although considered a common law wife, Florence was able to obtain a legal divorce in 1886.

She placed Eugene with her parents and went to work at The Marion Star where she met Harding. Harding and Eugene had a warm relationship better than the boy had with his grandparents or with his mother. He was awarded a degree from the School of Journalism at the University of Michigan, wed, had two children but in 1915, at age 34, died from alcoholism and TB.

His children were the principal heirs of the Harding's estate. The Hardings never had any issue of their own.

Florence was totally innocent. Means had written a libelous book without proving any of his allegations. Fortunately, Florence had died before it was ever published.

Means died in 1938 in Leavenworth prison. A bootlegger, swindler and murder suspect, he had been found guilty of conning a socialite of \$100,000 who believed he would pay off the kidnapers of the Lindbergh baby and rescue the child. Instead, he absconded with the money.

Laddie-Boy won the hearts of the newspaper boys of America. In honor of President Harding, they each donated a penny which was melted down to make a statue of the dog. Laddie-Boy died in 1930 in the home of the SS agent and his wife. The statue is in the Smithsonian.



Of all of the things that Obama has done, the knife in Israel's back is the worst. The United States, on December 23rd, abstained on a vote over a UN Security Council resolution demanding an end to Israeli settlements in what they say is Palestinian territory. By abstaining, instead of vetoing the resolution, as the United States has done in similar situations for decades, the Obama administration allowed the resolution against Israeli settlements to make it through the United Nations vote by a unanimous 14-0 margin. Not only was this bad for Israel and not only did it go against the way we have partnered with Israel for over 40 years, but it put a firm rebuke on Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel. And if that wasn't enough, it put a rebuke on President-elect Donald Trump as he argued vehemently against this measure. Many in the House of Representatives and also in the Senate, both Democrats and Republicans, are in shock about the way this resolution was handled.

The resolution orders Israel to "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in (what they claim is) occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem," and states that the establishment of settlements by Israel has "no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law." President-elect Trump stated in a Tweet, ***"The beginning of the end was the horrible Iran deal, and now this (U.N.)! Stay strong Israel, January 20th is fast approaching!"***

"President Obama and Secretary Kerry are behind this shameful move against Israel at the U.N.," an Israeli official said. ***"The U.S. administration secretly cooked up with the Palestinians an extreme anti-Israeli resolution behind Israel's back which would be a tailwind for terror and boycotts and effectively make the Western Wall occupied Palestinian territory."*** The Western Wall is holy ground for the Jewish people.

From what I can see from all of this is that Obama and John Kerry are trying to argue that in order to have a two state solution to the Israeli/Arab problems, the Israeli's cannot build settlements in what they perceive to be Palestinian territory. A two state solution is to have two separate states...one would be Israel and the other would be Palestine. It sounds like a reasonable solution when you look at it on the surface, but unfortunately, nothing is that easy. The Palestinians have, for years, been calling for the total extinction of Israel. Over the years numerous attempts at peace have taken place. Israel has promised to give up many things, only to see the Palestinians say, "NO!" Peace did not fit their objective of Jewish annihilation.

Let's go into this a little further. Is anybody aware that the Palestinians teach their children from the time they enter school to hate Jews? The UN has discussed and shown diagrams telling how the Palestinians are teaching their own children to stab a Jew!

The state of Israel, as we know it today, came into being in 1948, but it actually goes back much further than that. It goes back as some people say, 3000 years. I would say that it goes back further than that. It actually goes back 4000 years. Anyone that knows anything about ancient history will tell you that the Jewish people in Israel go back to Abraham. ***Even President Obama acknowledged the ancient existence of Jews in Israel*** at a White House Hanukkah reception earlier this month. President Obama wished the gathering a "Happy Hanukkah!" And then he went on to say, ***"As many times as we tell it, this 2,000-year-old tale never gets old.*** In every generation, we take heart from the Maccabees' struggle against tyranny, their fight to live in peace and practice their religion in peace. We teach our children that even in our darkest moments, a stubborn flame of hope flickers and miracles are possible." Obama said 2000 years and not 4000 years, but that is only because of his ignorance of the facts, however, he still acknowledged the Jew's ancient heritage in Israel.

The Security Council resolution adopted on December 23rd states that East Jerusalem, including the Old City and Temple Mount, is "Palestinian Territory" and condemns and demands that Israel stop the construction and expansion of "settlements" there and elsewhere in the areas that were captured from Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War. Netanyahu is adamant that this area is NOT Palestinian Territory and he will not stop building and allowing his people to live in their homeland. Israel's Ambassador, Danny Danson, when responding to the Security Council, brought back to their memory the days of the Maccabees and King David to point out the Jew's long standing rights in Israel. In conclusion, he held up a Bible and stated, "This holy book, the Bible, contains 3,000 years of Jewish history in the land of Israel. No one...no one, can change this history."

So what is the bottom line in all of this?

- Our own President Obama, in the past, has admitted to the Jewish people's rights to the land.
- The Palestinians have been led, for many years, by terrorist groups and leaders who hate Jews.
- Many peace plans have been put before the Palestinians time and time again, and the Palestinians have rejected the peace plans.
- The Jewish people have agreed time and time again to the same peace plans that were rejected by the Palestinians.
- The Palestinians have rejected all peace processes for one reason and one reason only...they want the Jews to be annihilated...wiped off the face of the earth.
- The Palestinians teach their children to hate Jews in their schools...brain washing them, at a very young age.
- The United States has been a long standing friend of Israel as the only democratic country among all of the Arab nations.
- President Obama has left thousands of clues to his true allegiance...to the Muslim religion and their agenda...doing nothing about terrorism and telling the world that we are not a Christian nation, and that he, personally, is a Muslim. The Muslim religion is a religion of Jihad. Perhaps that is why he does nothing.
- President Obama has continuously pledged allegiance to Israel...until now...his last month in office. President Obama waited until he was leaving to reveal who he truly was and where his allegiances truly laid.

To say that I am distressed by this is an enormous understatement. I believe that it is the worst thing that Obama has done. He has done plenty to remove us from peace and safety, but this remains the single worst thing that has occurred in his presidency.

I want to close by sharing what our Christian Bible said 4000 years ago about people who turn against Israel. Gen 12:1-3 says, "The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ***I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;*** and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'" NIV If you are not a believer, these scriptures are still significant, because they are held in deep reverence by the Jewish people. These scriptures are significant to the Jews and are at the very beginning of their claims to the land of Israel and therefore should be significant to us. I don't know about you, but I believe God means it. Woe be to us if we turn our backs on Israel and curse them...as Obama just did. I pray that President-elect Donald Trump makes wiser decisions than what Obama just made in regards to Israel. Obama had their back alright...he stuck a knife in it.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

PLEASE PAY 2017 DUES ASAP...IF YOU ARE NOT RENEWING, PLEASE ADVISE

TOTAL PAID RENEWALS TO DATE ARE 72

EMAIL PEG LOVE AT peglove810@gmail.com

or CALL AT 941-740-0228

We currently have 178 members which includes 137 Full Members, 34 Associate Members, 7 Student Members.

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District 19



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Kathleen Passidomo
State Senator



Ray Rodriguez
Majority Leader
Florida House of Representatives



Lori Fayhee



Donna Clarke
Lee Memorial Hospital Board



Linda Doggett
Lee County Clerk of Courts



Dane Eagle
Majority Whip
Florida House of Representatives



Larry Hart
Lee County Tax Collector



Dan Sinclair



Heather Fitzenhagen
Florida House of Representatives



Mike Scott
Lee County Sheriff



Sharon Harrington



Larry Kiker
Lee County Commissioner
District 3

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES



Meet your new LRWF Executive Board...from left to right are Kerri Tonkin, 1st VP, Pat Baldwin, 2nd VP, Marj Tyrer, Recording Secretary, Marilyn Kostic, Corresponding Secretary, Doris Cortese, President and Mindy Moran, Treasurer. Not pictured is Chris Quackenbush, Assistant Treasurer.



A fun group! Left to right are Lori Fayhee, Clara Callahan and Marie Kernan!



Left to right are Christina McLaughlin, New Student Member, Leilani Gonzales, Secretary to Ray Rodrigues, and Olivia Beck, Barbara Koeplinger's granddaughter. So good to see fresh young people!!!

*Thanks to
John Fernandez Photography
for this month's photos!*



Left to right are Cindy Lignelli, Past LRWF President of LRWF with Priscilla Grannis, President of WRC of Naples and 3rd VP of FFRW. Thanks Priscilla for swearing in our new board!



Chris Berardi, Communications Director for Congressman Francis Rooney



Tommy Doyle...our new Supervisor of Elections! Congratulations!



Left to right in the rear are Cheryl Harris, Roz Lesser, and Kerri Tonkin. Mindy Moran is sitting in front! Merry Christmas girls!

**I lived through
OBAMA
You'll live through
Trump!**

*Happy New Year
Everyone!*