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President: Doris Cortese
1st VP: Kerri Tonkin
Treasurer: Mindy Moran
Asst. Treas: Roz Lesser
Recording Sec: Marj Tyrer
Corresponding Sec: Marilyn Kostik

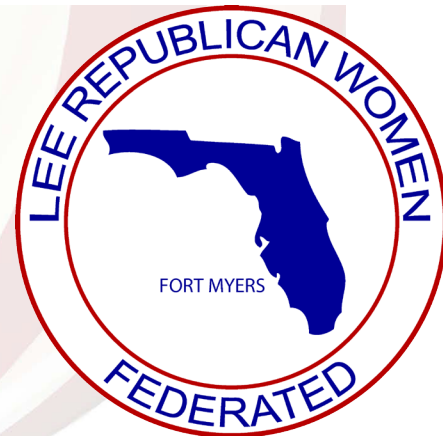
Committee chairs

Achievement Award: Norman Jean Taylor
Americanism: Beth Craft
Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris
Bylaws/Parliamentarian: Kerri Tonkin
Caring for America: Renie Frank, Anita Diamond
Fundraising: Keri Tonkin
Hospitality: Barb Koeplinger
Legislative: Lori Fayhee
Membership: Peg Love
Newsletter: Mary Snyder
Programs: Pat Baldwin
Publicity: Gail Langner
Reservations: Wren Morefield/Mary Ann Hansen
Social Media: Mary Snyder
Non-Committee Positions
Chaplain: Terri Lee
Photographer: John Fernandez

THE MAHOUT The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

November 2017

*Strong Women for a
Strong America*



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Most bad government has grown out of too much government."
Thomas Jefferson*

JOIN US!

November 15, 2017 at the beautiful
Forest Golf County Club
6100 Partridge Club Rd, Fort Myers
Doors open at 10:30 AM

LRWF's largest fund raiser...
Glamour-us On Parade Fashion Show

This will be a fun event. Items to be auctioned are gently used designer hand bags and jewelry along with lots of other surprises!

Call Kerri Tonkin at 907-321-0419
for information

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

To make a reservation online go to
<http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/store>

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

**Everyone MUST check in at the
Reservation Desk.**

**Thank you in advance
for your support.**

make
AMERICA
great again

*Bring a friend!
Or bring two!!*



LRWF
Presents the...

Glamour-us On Parade Fashion Show

NEXT MONTH.....

DOLLY MADISON COMES TO TOWN

The LRWF members and guests will host Dolley Madison, the fourth First Lady of the United States, at its holiday dinner on December 11, 2017.

Mrs. Madison, through local thespian, Annie M. Mrozinski, will transport her audience to her 19th century Christmas open house at Montpielier, her Orange County mansion in Virginia.

The former Dorethea Todd led a remarkably full life. This would include the fact that she lived long enough to have her photo, which accompanies this article to the right, taken in 1848 when she was 80.

Mrs. Mrozinski has been doing her one-woman show for a number of years. She is a member of the Lee Republican Women's Club and lives with her husband, Ken, in Fort Myers. Previously the couple lived in Manhattan, Kansas.

The holiday dinner will be held on Monday, December 11, at Pincher's Restaurant, First Street, Ft. Myers. Email Wren Morefield to make reservations at wrenspet@hotmail.com.



NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Doris Cortese
LRWF President

As many of know, we had a month-to-month lease at our LCREC headquarters which also hosted our newly formed museum. As is always a possibility with a month to month leases, someone came in and offered the owner of the building twice as much money as what we were paying and we consequently lost the lease. As a result, Dane Eagle graciously stepped up to the plate and offered his services to help LCREC find a new location. Finding a place that was suitable for LCREC was of primary importance since it is actually their office, and they are paying the rent. Next was the consideration of the museum.

Thanks to Dane, we did find a place that was suitable for both LCREC and also the museum. We have been working diligently to make this move and have had many wonderful volunteers who done an absolutely tremendous job! We have a two year lease in our new location which is located at 7050 Winkler Road Suite 103 Myerlee Square next to Pizza Pub. Please come see us soon!

I want to thank Dane and all of the wonderful volunteers who have faithfully given of their time and labor.

Sincerely,
Doris Cortese, President, LRWF
Vice President, LCREC

Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Restoration

The quality of our Southwest Florida waterways, estuaries and marshes is the driving force behind our economy and why most of us have chosen to live here. The Lake Okeechobee watershed and Everglades have far-ranging impact on the entire State of Florida and the country, but especially in Southeast and Southwest Florida, where 55% of all real estate in the state is affected - 2 trillion dollars of economic impact across 164 cities and 16 counties.

As there are many different ideas and proposed solutions to our water crisis, it is important to know the facts. There are two key components to eliminating releases from Lake Okeechobee and fixing our waters.

First, since Lake Okeechobee fills six times as fast as it drains, due to the fact that the Everglades is less than one-half its original drainage footprint, a series of complementary projects in all areas of the watershed is necessary. This is what the Central Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) called for – 68 projects. The CERP was passed in December, 2000, 16 years ago. Now we have unfunded projects of around \$3 billion. The state is several billion dollars ahead of the federal government in funding these projects which, per the passage of CERP, were supposed to be 50/50 cost sharing.

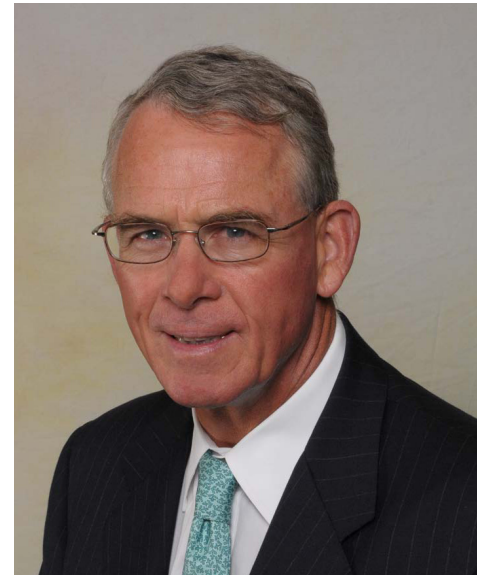
Second, the federal government is obligated to reinforce and strengthen the Herbert Hoover Dike. Once done, the lake can temporarily hold a higher level of water in times of excessive rains and discharge it more ratably than last summer's emergency discharges, which damaged estuaries and stirred up pollution.

I am thankful for President Trump's recently announced commitment to expediting dike repairs and look forward to continuing to work with the Administration, Governor Scott, and local stakeholders to bring this project to completion. In the House, we were successful in achieving the highest level of federal funding ever for dike repairs in the FY 2018 appropriations bill. I am hopeful that the timeline for repairs can now be significantly shortened, which is critical to ending these harmful discharges.

The bottom line is that restoration of the Everglades and the Okeechobee Watershed, and controlling excessive discharges into our rivers and bays, is a complex and expensive challenge, involving projects all around the lake and along both rivers, east and west, as well as the southward flow projects. I am working every day to make this case to the federal government, including the Army Corps of Engineers, House and Senate Appropriations Leaders, and the White House, that we need them to fund what they have committed to in authorization laws. I am narrowly focused on the federal roles here to expedite the existing plans and complete the projects called for through the CERP.

Sincerely,

Francis Rooney
U.S. House of Representatives



Francis Rooney
US House of Representatives

MEMBERSHIP

LRFW held a very successful New Member Orientation on October 19th, and bid a fond farewell to the "old Republican Headquarters!" (On to the new digs the next day).

We welcomed Olivia Beck, Erin Casey, Laura Carr and her husband, Joy Hansen, Donna Lomba, Christina McLaughlin and guest, Barb Michalski, Nancy Summers and Laura Winstel. Several board members were part of the meet, greet and chat committee. Each board member shared a few words about her duties and encouraged the new members to get involved and participate to the fullest. Special thanks to Pat Baldwin, Barb Koeplinger and Marilyn Kostik for the lovely food and drink shared by all in the Republican Museum Room. For those new members unable to attend, please see me for your membership packet.

Peg Love
peglove810@gmail.com
941-740-0228

NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Carpenter
11765 Grand Belvedere Way, #101
Fort Myers 33913
Phone: 239-215-7993
Email: wildflowerlynn44@yahoo.com

Tory Renza
2605 49th Street West
Lehigh Acres, 33971
Phone: 681-758-9004
Email: hathorrenza@gmail.com

Jenna Persons
2125 1st Street, Ste 201
Fort Myers, 33901
Phone: 239-691-2877
Email: jpersons@strayhornlaw.com

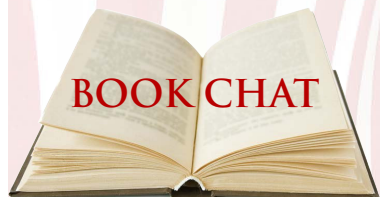
Susan Selby
4632 SW 17th Avenue
Cape Coral, 33914
Email: susanselby@yahoo.com



Museum News

**WE'VE MOVED!!!
COME SEE US AT...**

7050 Winkler Road, Suite 103
Myerlee Square (Next to Pizza Pub)
Phone: 239-936-8779
Mon-Fri 10:00-4:00 Sat 10:00-2:00



LRWF Ladies and guests. We have respectfully made a new selection for our monthly Book Chat read. We have decided to read Bill O'Reilly's newest killing book, *Killing England*. In light of all that has happened in our country to negate our fundamental freedom, we chose a book that may enlighten us with renewed respect for our founding fathers.

This book focuses on the most important era in our nation's history, The Revolutionary War. The story is told through the eyes of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Great Britain's King George III. It chronicles the path to independence in gripping detail, taking the reader from the battlefields of America to the royal courts of Europe. What started as a protest and unrest in the colonies, soon escalated to a world war with devastating casualties, which led to the birth of a new country.

We invite everyone to join us at Mel's Diner on US 41, on November 1st, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM to discuss our history and enjoy a nice lunch.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so we may plan accordingly. I look forward to seeing you on November 1st. Enjoy the read!

Thanks,

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

CARING FOR AMERICA 2017 PROJECT

Our new Caring for America project in 2017 is Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida.





The article that I am about to write, is one that I feel I have earned the right to write. Let me start by saying that I lost my son when he was 38 years old. He did not die at the hands of a terrorist overseas, but he did die at the hands of an American terrorist...of sorts. When my son died, the police told me that he committed suicide, however he was right handed and the bullet went into the left side of his head and he had no gun residue on his hands. I have friends who were private detectives and also one of them was an undercover narcotics cop on the Dallas police force for 25 years. I sent them the autopsy report, and they told me that there was no way that my son could have shot himself. If he had, the bullet would have gone through the right side of his head, and he definitely would have had gun residue on his hands. I am not a Gold Star mother, but I know what they feel like because I lost my son in a very brutal way. Having said that, I have never had the right to say anything I want, especially if it is untrue, just because I was a grieving mother. Was I angry? Of course!!! Was I hurt? You bet!!! But I did not and do not have the right to misbehave.

Does anyone believe for one minute that President Trump called that fallen soldier's mother to tell her that her son knew what he was getting into in a manner to make her feel like his death was of no importance? Like he should have known better? Does anyone really believe that is why he called her? Get a life! Of course he didn't call for that purpose. I don't care if that mother was grieving or not, it did NOT give her the right to misbehave, nor did it give Congresswoman Wilson the right to take advantage of her feelings to fuel the fire! You see...I don't just blame Congresswoman Wilson, but I also blame the grieving mother. She had no right to do what she did. I said that I feel I have a right to voice my opinion on this and I stand by that. I have earned my stripes! I have suffered that kind of loss! How dare she use her situation to misbehave!

Furthermore, if it is wrong for President Trump to stand up for himself...has anyone ever walked in his shoes? Do you know one president ever to have suffered from the media as he has? Even Jimmy Carter has come out in defense of President Trump by stating no one has ever been treated as badly by the press as he has. I'm 71 years old! That means I am old enough to remember how Reagan was treated by the press! It was awful! But it was nothing compared to what President Trump has suffered! You think he doesn't have the right to defend himself? I disagree. If he doesn't do it, who will? I heard today that George Bush would never have fought back like that...tweeting and such. Well, George Bush was never treated this badly. People have sunk to a new low. I'd like to see one other president walk in President Trump's shoes. They couldn't take it...and I like some of them!

I guess it doesn't matter what this grieving mother thinks though. Look at John Kelly who was the one who advised President Trump on what to say when he made the phone call. He lost his son in Afghanistan, but he got trashed by the media too! I suppose it doesn't matter if you are a Gold Star father if you're a Republican...it only counts if you're a Democrat. John Kelly spoke with compassion and dignity trying to explain the anguish that President Trump went through before making the phone calls. Most presidents don't make those phone calls, he said. But President Trump, being the compassionate person that he is, went ahead against advice that they may not respond well to him, because he wanted the families to know that their President was grieving with them. Maybe he muffled the soldier's name. I am sure I would too. I would be so tongue tied, I wouldn't know what to say. How rude of that fallen soldier's mother to disrespect our president the way she did. How dispicable for that congresswoman to carry on the way she has!

I heard it mentioned about the Gold Star family that President Trump talked about before the election. President Trump was ridiculed again about that. Does anyone know that man was not a nice man? He made his living bringing Muslims over to the United States. That's why he hated Trump, because President Trump wanted to stop the flow which would have cut into his very large income. His son was a hero! The father was not.

I learned something today. I learned that they knew ahead of time that the President would be calling. That means that Congresswoman Wilson knew he would be calling, thereby giving her the opportunity to listen in to the conversation. I suspect that since Congresswoman Wilson was with the family that they were all Democrats. I would hate to think that this Gold Star mother said what she said, because she had a political bias. I can't judge her motives. That would be wrong. Especially since I don't know her motives, but I do know one thing that I *can* judge. God gives me the right to judge between right and wrong and it is wrong to turn the words of a good man around especially when he was doing what he was doing to show compassion to the person who was trashing him. I'm done. Enough said!

(Written by a "Grieving" but not "Gold Star" Mom.)



A TRUE PATRIOT

"I will never lie down when the President of this great country comes to shake my hand! There may be plenty of issues in this country, but I will always respect my country, my president and my flag. Shot in the leg or not, I will stand to show my President the respect he deserves!"

Thomas Gunderson

Legislative

UPDATE

By Lori Fayhee

OUR COUNTRY'S RESPONSE TO HARVEY, IRMA, AND MARIA

Florida Senate Republicans formally announced their support of Bradenton state Senator Bill Galvano as their next leader, selecting him to be Senate president in November 2018 if they hold the majority in the next elections. Representative Jose Oliva, the Miami Lakes Republican, was selected to be Galvano's counterpart as House speaker in 2018.

The upcoming legislative session in which an already-tight budget will be negotiated with the mounting cost of Hurricane Irma recovery looks to be a busy year. Currently, 623 bills have been filed with 327 Senate bills and 296 House bills. Following, are a

sampling of bills filed that are sponsored or co-sponsored by our local legislators:

SB 4: Higher Education, is a general Bill by Senator Bill Galvano, and co-introduced by Senator Kathleen Passidomo; Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto; and ten others. Citing this act as the "Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018"; establishing the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program; authorizing state university investments in certain faculty retention, recruitment, and recognition activities; establishing the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program; authorizing a student to use Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards for summer term enrollment; extending coverage of the Benacquisto Scholarship Program to include tuition and fees for qualified nonresident students, etc. Representative Ray Rodrigues filed an identical bill, HB 423.

Changes to the Florida High School Graduation Requirements include HB 323 General Bill by Heather Fitzenhagen and identical bill, CS/SB 88, by Senator Dorothy L. Hukill and co-introduced by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto and eight others. This Bill would revise the High School Graduation Requirements to include financial literacy; revising the required credits for a standard high school diploma to include one-half credit of instruction in personal financial literacy and money management and seven and one-half, rather than eight, credits in electives, etc.

SB 8: Controlled Substances, a GENERAL BILL by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, would Authorize certain boards to require practitioners to complete a specified board-approved continuing education course to obtain authorization to prescribe controlled substances as part of biennial renewal; authorizing disciplinary action against practitioners for violating specified provisions relating to controlled substances; requiring certain pain management clinic owners to register approved exemptions with the department; providing requirements for pharmacists and practitioners for the dispensing of controlled substances to persons not known to them; establishing direct-support organizations for specified purposes; requiring a direct-support organization to operate under written contract with the department, etc. Similar bill, HB 21, Controlled Substances, is a general bill filed by Representative Boyd.

SB 434: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Pilot Project, filed by Senator Kathleen Passidomo, would require the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, to establish a pilot project to license one or more facilities in Medicaid Region 8 to treat infants who suffer from neonatal abstinence syndrome, a term for a group of problems a baby experiences when withdrawing from exposure to narcotics, in certain circumstances; authorizing the agency to charge an initial licensure fee and a biennial renewal fee; prohibit a facility licensed under this section from treating an infant for longer than 6 months; require the Department of Health to contract with a state university to study certain components of the pilot project and establish certain baseline data for studies on the neurodevelopmental outcomes of infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

HB 2053 Ft. Myers Salvation Army - Co-Occurring Residential Treatment Program, Appropriations Project by Representative Matt Caldwell, would provide an appropriation for the fiscal year 2018-2019 the nonrecurring sum of \$165,000 from the General Revenue Fund for the Ft. Myers Salvation Army - Co-Occurring Residential Treatment Program.

SB 140: Marriage of Minors, Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, Prohibiting the issuance of a marriage license to any person under the age of 18 years, etc. Passed Judiciary committee 8-0. An identical bill, HB 335: Marriage of Minors, was filed by Nunez; White.

HB 273 General Bill by Rodrigues Public Records: Prohibits agency that receives a request to inspect or copy record from responding to such request by filing a civil action against individual or entity making the request.

CALL YOUR CONGRESSMEN TODAY!

Tell our congressmen what you are concerned about. Encourage them to get behind our president!

BILL NELSON

716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5274
or email at

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

MARCO RUBIO

284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3041
or email at

<https://marcorubio.com/contact/>

FRANCIS ROONEY

120 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2536
or email at

<https://francisrooney.house.gov/contact/>

Here are 5 acts of kindness that reveal there's more to the billionaire than just his big celebrity persona.

1. He gave sanctuary to Grammy Award winning singer Jennifer Hudson after three of her family members were murdered.
2. Airlines wouldn't accommodate a boy who had serious medical issues, so Trump offered his jet to help.
3. He helped save a family's working farm that was going into foreclosure.
4. After Sergeant Andrew Tahmoressi was released from a prison in Mexico, The Donald sent him a big check to help get him back on his feet.
5. Trump did something for a bus driver who helped save a woman from jumping off a bridge...he wrote him a ten thousand dollar check.

The list goes on and on and on and on and on and on...



AMERICANISM
American First Ladies

By Pat Baldwin

MELANIA: A PHOTO GALLERY OF HER FIRST SIX MONTHS!

Since we have done several articles on Melania Trump, we have decided to show you a photo gallery of her first six months as an American First Lady!



MELANIA: A GALLERY OF HER FIRST SIX MONTHS...CONTINUED



*Thanks Melania
for being such a wonderful
First Lady of the United States of America!*

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Websites



Lizbeth Benacquisto
Florida State Senate



Ray Rodriguez
Majority Leader
Florida House of Representatives



Francis Rooney
U.S. Congressman Dist. 19



Tommy Doyle
Supervisor of Elections



Carmen Salomé
FFRW District 75 Rep
Freedom & Virtue Institute



Jeanne Dozier



Lori Fayhee



Donna Clarke
Lee Health Board
Vice Chair



Linda Doggett
Lee County Clerk of Courts



Dane Eagle
Majority Whip
Florida House of Representatives



Larry Hart
Lee Co. Tax Collector



Dan Sinclair



Kathleen Passidomo
Florida State Senate



Heather Fitzhagen
Florida House of Representatives



Mike Scott
Lee County Sheriff



Larry Kiker
Lee County Commissioner
District 3



Sharon Harrington

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THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES



*In the photo to the left...
Lt. Col. Gary Peppers speaks from the heart!*



*In the photo to the right, we have...left to
right... John Snyder, husband of Mary Snyder,
Lt. Col. Gary Peppers, our speaker and
Wally Cortese, husband of our
President Doris Cortese.
All three men are veterans
and have a bond that lasts forever!*

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES...CONTINUED



Marilyn Kostik, LRWF Corresponding Secretary, on the left, hugs her buddy... Mindy Moran, LRWF Treasurer!



Roz Lesser and Amira Fox, Chief Assistant State Attorney are enjoying each other's company!



A Thank you and congratulations is in order for our very special LRWF President, Doris Cortese.

DORIS WAS PRESENTED WITH AN AWARD THIS PAST WEEK FOR MEMBER WITH THE MOST VOLUTEER HOURS STATEWIDE!

JOHN FERNANDEZ
P•H•O•T•O•G•R•A•P•H•Y

239.571.6293

john@johnfernandezphotography.net
www.JohnFernandezPhotography.net

Thanks Doris!