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# THE MAHOUT

## The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

January 2018

*Strong Women for a Strong America*



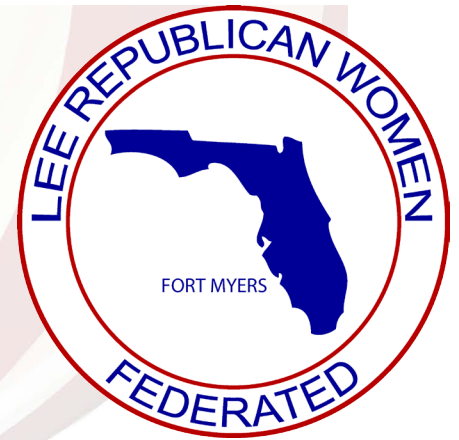
Jonathan Martin

Jonathan A. Martin was born in Iowa, but has called Lee County his home since early childhood. Jonathan attended Stetson University from 2000-2004, where he majored in Political Science, Religious Studies, and minored in Business Administration. While enrolled, Jonathan was President of the Student Government Association. In 2004 Jonathan received a full scholarship to Liberty University School of Law. Jonathan became the founding Chair of the Honor Council and founding president of the Federalist Society. He also served as a law clerk for the City Attorney's Office in Fort Myers, which allowed him to be exposed to various areas of the law, including personal injury cases from the defense perspective.

After law school Jonathan returned to Southwest Florida in 2007 and accepted an appointment as an Assistant State Attorney. After trying eight cases in a little over a month, Jonathan was one of very few prosecutors in the State to be sent to the rigorous Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training at the University of Florida. After a few additional months prosecuting misdemeanor and juvenile cases, Jonathan began prosecuting felony cases. He was soon promoted to the position of the sole prosecutor in Glades County where he handled a heavy caseload that included every criminal prosecution in the county.

While prosecuting numerous career criminals, murderers, and working extensive investigations with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, Jonathan learned various techniques and skills that allowed him to uncover the smallest details of a case that many times became the most important piece of evidence. He attended an intensive DUI/vehicular manslaughter seminar sponsored by the Florida Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program. Among other subjects, it provided thorough instruction on how the traffic experts collect evidence and use complicated, but mathematically sound, formulas to determine who is at fault. He also served on an Identity Fraud Task Force with the Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Justice along with other law enforcement agencies in the Fort Myers and Tampa area.

The focus of Jonathan's career is to give back to his community, helping those who have been harmed by others, having participated in 89 trials. However, it has always been important for him to find the time to be extremely active in his community. He is an active member of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee. He has served as the President of the Hendry-Glades Bar Association, on the Board of Directors for a local school, with his church's various ministries, including traveling to Guatemala to help rebuild homes after a volcano eruption. Jonathan serves as the Chairman of the Lee County Republican Executive Committee.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"The paradox of liberal tolerance is that it extends to Marxists, transsexuals, and Islamic radicals, but not to conservatives or Christians."*

Dinesh D'Souza

*Happy New Year!*

## JOIN US!

The next meeting of LRWF is January 8th at Pincher's Restaurant. at the Marina, in Fort Myers at 2360 West 1st Street. Social time starting at 11:15 PM with lunch following. Jonathan Martin, Chairman of Lee Republican Executive Committee will be speaking about our local politics.

The menu choices are:

1. Turkey Wrap with Chips
2. Caesar's Salad with Chicken
3. Plain Caesar Salad with toppings on the side.

Dessert: A Big Cookie

Deadline is Thursday

January 4th at Noon

For reservations call

Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or email at [wrenspet@hotmail.com](mailto: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.**

## NEXT MONTH

**Jan. 29th Richard Corcoran**  
Florida Speaker of the House

**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

A new year is beginning and we are facing many things.

1. We are going to be launching a membership in March
2. It is election year for US Senators, the Florida Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Attorney General, and the Commissioner of Agriculture.
3. President Trump needs our support to attain the goals he has set for this country and to get his programs passed.

It will take every one of us to Paint Florida Red. I'm sure all of you spend at least an hour a day watching TV, going on Facebook, etc. This time can be spent writing letters to the editor, making phone calls or walking your neighborhood. I am asking and expecting our members to get involved and work for the candidate of your choice during 2018. We have an office for Lee County and will provide you with all the tools you need. Don't look back at this time next year and say "If only I had done more, Florida might be red."

It is up to each of you to look into yourselves and decide how important your state and country is. Is it important enough to work for or doesn't it matter what happens in our government? ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE. May God grant you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Doris Cortese, President, LRWF - Vice President, LCREC

### *A "Purge" by Any Other Name... by Francis Rooney*

In an MSNBC interview Tuesday, I commented about "purging" the FBI and Department of Justice (DOJ) of people who have gone well beyond expressing personal political views and have sought to use their office to influence the recent 2016 election. There are deeply disturbing comments in the texts of Peter Strzok and his mistress, and in the actions of Bruce Ohr in meeting with the people responsible for Clinton/DNC funded opposition research during the campaign. We need to know about what the FBI and DOJ undertook concerning the "dossier" and what Strzok's comment about a meeting in Deputy Director McCabe's office was all about.

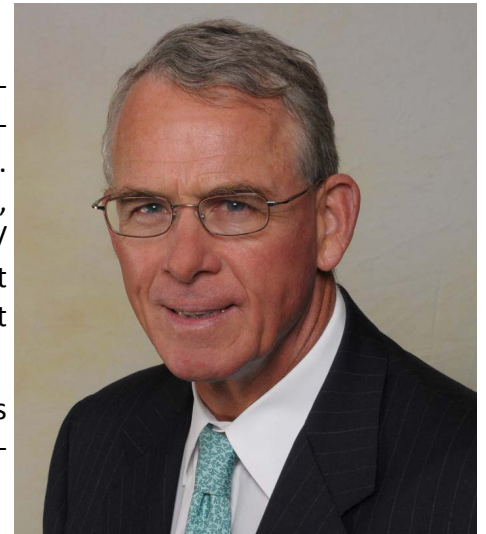
The importance of the message was to warn that there is a 'deep state' that exists within our federal government, which has no interest in 'draining the swamp' or changing the status quo of Washington's bureaucratic ruling class.

A little over one year ago, the people spoke and Donald Trump was duly elected as the 45th President of the United States. Every day since, a concerted effort to undermine the results of that election has been underway - largely led by liberal democrats and left leaning media members. We have seen Constitutional pillars such as the Electoral College come under attack and the losing candidate cite over 40 different excuses for being soundly defeated by Donald Trump. One of the most oft-cited explanations used by the left is that Russia influenced our election results. The drumbeat of 'collusion' began even before Trump was officially sworn-in and culminated in a special counsel being chosen to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election and whether there was any collusion on the part of the Trump campaign.

Robert Mueller, a man with a record of unquestionable integrity, was appointed to oversee the investigation. As Mueller built his team, a very concerning dynamic began to take shape. Investigators hired by Mr. Mueller had donated \$62,000 to democrat candidates running for office, while donations to republican candidates totaled only \$2,750. Peter Strzok, noted above, spoke openly to his mistress about his disdain for Trump during the campaign and a need to have an 'insurance policy' against his presidency. He also led the investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private server and recommended to Director Comey that her actions be reduced from "gross negligence" (a crime) to "extremely careless" (not a crime). While removed from the investigation, incredibly Strzok continues to hold a high level job at the FBI.

The potential for deep state interference can also be found in the Justice Department, which oversees the FBI. Bruce Ohr, Associate Deputy Attorney General, concealed the fact that his wife worked for Fusion GPS. Fusion is the company that produced the dubious 'Trump Dossier'. He not only met with Chris Steele, the British agent supplying material to Fusion GPS during the campaign, which was bad enough, but after the election met with the owner of Fusion GPS. What is his motive here?

These are a few examples of what Washington liberal elites will do to substitute their will for that of the American people. It is up to all of us to demand a "purge" of people such as Strzok and Ohr. Our trust in agencies such as the DOJ and FBI is too important to lose. As Samuel Adams said, "We are a nation of laws, not men."



Francis Rooney  
US House of Representatives

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome the following new members!!

Charles Lilienthal  
17750 Ficus Ct.  
North Fort Myers, FL 33917

Ann Ross  
13986 Bald Cypress Circle  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
239-218-1301  
ART82412@comcast.net

Wappes, Christine  
9931 Periwinkle Preserve Lane #102  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
260-687-9327  
chriswappes@gmail.com

Total renewals and new members as of 12/11/2017 = 47. Lots more to go. Send them as soon as you can or bring them to the January 8th luncheon meeting. Contact me and I'll be glad to send you an application. **OR...sign up and pay online!**

Have a very Merry Christmas,

Peg Love  
[peglove810@gmail.com](mailto:peglove810@gmail.com)  
941-740-0228

## YOU MAY NOW RENEW ONLINE!

GO TO <http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com>

WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE "SIGN UP OR RENEW" POP UP

CLICK ON THE PICTURE THAT SAYS "SIGN UP OR RENEW"

FILL OUT THE RENEWAL APPLICATION AND SUBMIT

THEN CLICK ON THE LINK TO PAY FOR YOUR RENEWAL

(While you're at it, sign up for the meeting with Jonathan Martin and also for the meeting with Richard Corcoran! Just click on the pictures.)

**COULDN'T BE EASIER!**

# 2018



Please join us Wednesday, January 3rd, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Mel's Diner on route 41, Fort Myers. We will be discussing Brian Kilmeade's book on Andrew Jackson called *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans*.

The War of 1812 saw America threatened on every side. Encouraged by the British, the Indian tribes attacked settlers in the west, while the Royal Navy terrorized the coasts. President James Madison had lost control of the war in the north...losing battles in Canada. Then the British troops set the Whitehouse ablaze and feelings of hopelessness spread across the country.

A native of Tennessee, Major General Andrew Jackson, stepped into a dire situation. He witnessed the horrors of the Revolutionary War and Indian attacks. He was pleased that America had finally decided to confront repeated British aggression, but he feared that this president was overlooking the most important target of all...New Orleans. The British would cut off America's essential trade route and dreams of western expansion would be crushed.

Jackson had three enormous challenges:

1. Convince President Madison to take him seriously.
2. Assemble a coalition of frontier militiamen, including French speaking Louisianans, Cherokee and Choctaw Indians, freed slaves and even pirates.
3. Defeat the most powerful military force in the world in the confusing terrain of the Louisiana Bayous.

The Battle of New Orleans shaped America's destiny.

Please call me or email me to let me know if you are coming! Happy New Year!

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



## .....*Liar, liar, pants on fire!*

That pretty much sums it up for the Democrats here lately. Maybe not lately...maybe that just sums it up for the Democrats since the Clinton's came onto the scene. Before the Clintons, I might not have agreed with the Democrats, but I didn't have the animosity towards them that I do now. I know it's not good to have animosity toward anyone, but I hate liars and that's what the Clinton's have done for our political system. It has turned many of the Democrats into bold-faced liars! I am not talking about the common Democrat. I am talking about the Democrats in high places.

Recently I learned that about six Democrats who liked the Republican tax plan and wanted to vote for it, but they were bullied by the establishment Democrats. Would that be Pelosi and/or Shumer? Pelosi was one of the people who called the Republicans the party of "no." Here we have six Democrats who wanted to vote yes and they were forced to

vote no. Lying comes in all forms. Sometimes lying is deception. We were deceived into believing that all Democrats hated the Republican tax plan, but that just wasn't so.

I don't believe that all Democrats are liars, but I do believe that the people at the top of the party are making it difficult for Democrats to vote their conscience. Taking the Tax Reform bill as an example, the head Democrats say it hurts the middle class, when the middle class is getting a huge tax cut. They're lying. They say it benefits big corporations the most...this may be the only true thing that they say, but in benefiting the corporations (especially small ones) there will be many more jobs for the middle class...therefore benefiting the middle class. So...they twist the truth to deceive people. Lying takes the form of deception again.

I constantly hear Nancy Pelosi say that trickle-down economics doesn't work. She says it didn't work when Reagan tried it and it won't work now. That's a lie and Nancy Pelosi knows it. I was alive and of an age to be able to remember the Reagan tax cuts. Trickle-down economics DID work! She can lie to the younger voters who weren't around and don't know, but she definitely cannot lie to me. I remember the Reagan tax cuts!!! Do you ever wonder why the liberals want to erase history? If we erase what Reagan did, no one would know that it worked and the liberals would get what they want...a people who are dependent on the government and who therefore would give them job security. You see...these lies all come down to money...money in the pocket of the politicians who are lying to us!

The liberals in the media are just awful. They have said that Trump has dementia and that people close to him have confided that he has dementia setting in. That is NOT what I have heard from people who have been close to him. If he had dementia, I seriously doubt that he would have such great success when he goes overseas nor would he have such success in almost everything that he has tried except Obamacare...which he did manage to win by getting rid of the individual mandate penalty in the Tax Reform bill. Who would have thought that a demented man could diminish Obamacare in the Tax Reform bill???

People are upset with our wonderful President because he uses Twitter. Some don't like that he uses it at all and some think he should tone it down. If anyone was fair to him besides Fox News, then he wouldn't need to tweet at all! I say, get off his back and let him do what he feels he needs to do! When Jimmy Carter (who I have not had a lot of respect for in the past) says he has been treated more unfairly than any other president, then someone better listen. Jimmy Carter does not hold the beliefs of President Trump, but he is one of the few that can't be hurt by Shumer or Pelosi and he has spoken out! There are a few other Democrats that can't be hurt by Pelosi and Shumer and they are speaking out as well, such as Alan Dershowitz, Doug Schoen and Pat Caddel. These are all men who, even though Democrats, speak out against the lies and dirty tricks.

Just this week, I heard again about President Trump's poll numbers being so low, but then I also just saw comparisons between his poll numbers after his first year and Obama's poll numbers after his first year. They were one point apart! How often do you see that? I've only seen that comparison once, but it was by a medium that I trust...one that I have never found in a lie. So, again, they have taken the low poll numbers which are true and made it seem worse than it is...still a lie by deception.

Let's take the sex scandals for another example. I have felt for a long time that it was rather suspicious that when one woman comes out about a sexual offense that happened 20 or more years ago, that suddenly five or six women come out against the same person. Now a book is out telling that many (I am not saying all) women have been paid to say these things. It takes someone with no conscience to come forth in these instances when it looks like someone could be a political threat. As I said in a previous editorial, Herman Caine left the race for the presidency over sex accusations and later...when the election was over, he sued every woman and won in a court of law, but our dishonest media has not made his victories known to anyone.

Currently there is a book out telling about a California lawyer, Lisa Bloom and her efforts offering to sell *alleged* victims' stories to TV outlets in return for a commission for herself, arranging a donor to pay off one Trump accuser's mortgage and attempting to secure a six-figure payment for another woman who ultimately declined to come forward after being offered as much as \$750,000. The woman who refused the \$750,000 had an incident where Trump did something inappropriate, but when asked to stop, Trump did. He was not married at the time. This woman liked Trump, respected him and voted for him as president, but was asked to lie about him. She was originally offered \$10,000 which she refused and then the amount kept going up until she was offered the final amount of \$750,000 hoping she would come out the day before the election and hoping that this higher amount would finally tempt her beyond her strong ethics. She refused to be tempted.

This country is in trouble, but good news...Paul Ryan never did push his grandmother off the cliff!

# Legislative UPDATE

By Lori Fayhee

As we approached the final Committee Week before the 2018 Legislative Session, I had the pleasure of attending the Chamber of Southwest Florida's Pre-legislative Delegation Luncheon featuring State Senators Benacquisto and Passidomo, and State Representatives Caldwell, Eagle, Fitzenhagen, and Rodrigues, speaking on the upcoming legislative session.

Rep. Ray Rodrigues stated that the House is working on the \$83 billion budget, with a surplus of only \$54 million. He believes that balancing the budget and hurricane recovery will hold the most attention in the upcoming session. In response to a question regarding sexual harassment in Tallahassee, Rep Rodrigues said that under existing law, employees are protected. "The question is: Will employees feel confident enough in the system, to step up and come forward when it happens?" "Two senators - Benaquistto and Book, who've both been victims of sexual assault, did one of the greatest things we've seen in legislature and said they would support, when report first came out that six women said they had been victims but chose to remain anonymous, 'you need to believe in the process and to know that you are not alone, and we will be with you if you come forward.' That will do more to change the culture than anything else we will do. We need more of that and less of the bad behavior."

Rep. Fitzenhagen said she is supporting all the priorities of the House of Representatives and working to increase the ability for businesses to operate without any barriers. She stated, "We are always trying to find ways to eliminate regulation and have a better way for people to enter a business." To that end, she is working on a bill called the Franchisee Security Act. She stated that if local businesses are involved in a dispute, they have a choice of law clauses and they have to work out their differences in a court of law in another state, often California, and then they have to apply the law in another state, often New York. She stated, "If you want to do business in the state of Florida, I believe you should be able to count on the laws of Florida applying to your small business, and the courts of Florida settling your dispute." She has also filed a Financial Literacy Bill, again this year, that would provide tools for students graduating from high school. In conclusion, Rep. Fitzenhagen applauded Senator Benacquisto for addressing addiction and the mental health crisis, stating that we "don't have enough funding for mental health. Please share that with everyone you know. We need more funding in Florida for mental health."

Sen. Passidomo shared that Senate President Negron called her in August to assign her to the K-12 Appropriations Committee. She stated that "the K-12 appropriations budget is the biggest budget silo in the state of Florida, and that the total education budget has now passed healthcare as the biggest funding driver." Among her priorities, are the huge crisis and mental health problem in our schools. "Two hundred kids were Baker Acted in Broward County alone last year. The amount of suicide is just astounding among kids." She believes that we have not been able to give school districts the tools to address those issues and she would like to increase the focus on that. Sen. Passidomo has filed Senate Bill 874 to require that legislature may not sweep the Sadowski Trust Funds, the affordable housing Trust funds, into the general budget. This would stop the sweeps of the State and Local Housing Trust Fund, which are funded through documentary tax stamps. She stated that "Every year for the last 10-15 years The legislature has swept those funds into the general fund to help out the budget." "So we don't have available funding for affordable housing" and "SWFL is drowning in lack of affordable housing."

According to Sen. Passidomo's November press release, "The Governor's '17-18 budget proposed a \$224M sweep, while the '18-19 budget proposes a much lower \$91.8M sweep, affirming the Governor's commitment to affordable housing in the wake of a disastrous hurricane season." "This year marks 25 years since the Sadowski Act became law. There were no sweeps of the housing trust funds during the first ten years."

Sen. Benacquisto is working on two bills this session. S140 would remove the opportunity for people to prey on children across the state of Florida by raising the legal age of marriage to eighteen. The other bill is to limit prescription drug supply of opioids to three day prescriptions, and up to a seven day prescription if deemed medically necessary to treat the patient's pain as an acute medical condition. She stated that "this bill does not address chronic pain - only acute pain. Those with chronic pain could still receive a longer prescription." Senator Benacquisto shared that she "truly appreciates all of you who come to Tallahassee, and asks that you, please continue to come and call on us. Your advocacy is very valuable."

Rep. Caldwell said that he is on his 'farewell tour' and in his final year in the House. He shared that, "We really have been blessed with those who have served. We have the Majority Leader, two Chairmen, the Rules Chair, Majority Whip in the House; I have full chairmanship and Four subcommittees." He stated that he worked on permanent dedicated funding of land conservation last year, reshaping Florida Forever, and will continue this year.

Rep. Eagle serves as majority whip in the majority office and makes a great team with Rep. Rodrigues. He shared that they work with every member on every issue. Rep. Eagle filed two bills this year and may file *Continued on the next page...*

## Legislative Update Continued...

one more. On welfare reform, he said, "We always want to help people be productive and support their family." The welfare reform bill would require the government also to remove those who abuse the system. He has also filed a Gun Bill, to address the current law that prosecutes a concealed weapon holder who accidentally flashes their weapon, to lower the violation from a misdemeanor to a citation. Currently he is working with the Hurricane committee to help homesteaded homes with damage (uninhabitable) to receive property tax relief and is hoping to file a bill to address this. He applauded Lee County hurricane recovery, saying they "did a wonderful job preparing the community and helping with recovery afterward." He shared that while Fema and flood maps are a federal issue, in the long term, we need to redraw these maps, as many flooded areas were not listed in flood zones.

Rep. Eagle concluded by thanking the legislators' staff and reminding us how heavily they depend on their staff and that 'they are here to serve you.' "They (staff) keep us on task and keep our legislation moving and serve the community. They are here to help you with your needs."

Rep. Caldwell's Legislative Assistant is Charlotte Codie, and his District Secretary is Priscilla Skupny. Rep. Eagle's Legislative Assistant is Paige LeBoutillier, and his District Secretary is Kathleen (Katie) Larsen. Rep. Fitzenhagen's Legislative Assistant is Charles P. Smith, and her District Secretary is Melissa Thompson. Rep. Rodrigues' Legislative Assistant is James Mullen, and his District Secretary is Leilani Gonzalez. Sen. Benacquisto's Legislative Assistants are Matthew Hunter and Timothy Morris, and her Secretary is Alexis Mansolo. Sen. Passidomo's Naples Legislative Assistants are Rebecca Kokkinos and Sandra Mummert, LaBelle Legislative Assistant is Trenton Muntz, and her Tallahassee Legislative Assistant is Jared Willis.

## 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/>



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Robert Tonkin  
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Email: [rtonkin@arborim.com](mailto:rtonkin@arborim.com)

Toll Free: (800) 926-5097  
Direct: (239) 349-2339  
Toll Free Fax: (806) 923-6805



Ashley Winstel  
Agency Operations Manager

Blue Chip Financial of SW Florida  
5245 Big Pine Way, Suite 102  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Office 239-231-1345 Ext. 402  
Cell 602-708-8663  
Fax 239-244-8294  
Email: [awinstel@financialguide.com](mailto:awinstel@financialguide.com)



Jim Winstel, CLTC  
Agency Managing Director  
Financial Advisor

Blue Chip Financial of SW Florida  
5245 Big Pine Way, Suite 102  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Office 239-231-1345 Ext. 402  
Cell 602-708-8663  
Fax 239-244-8294  
Email: [jwinstel@financialguide.com](mailto:jwinstel@financialguide.com)

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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

## THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES



*Annie M. Mrozinski aka Dolly Madison gives us a lesson in history.*



*Ashley Winstel...isn't she pretty?  
She also happens to be smart and nice!*



*Laura Winstel, the daughter of Ashley Winstel above, is our youngest member!  
Doris Cortese, President LRWF, is awarding her for her many hours of service to the club.*



THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES...CONTINUED



*Renie Frank and Anita Diamond receive an award after retiring from 10 plus years of chairing the position of Caring for America!!*



*Barb Koeplinger with her friend who just joined as an Associate Member, Chuck Lilienthal.*



*Missi Lastra, President Cape Coral Republican Women Federated with Wren Morefield, LRWF Reservation Chair ...both are pretty in red!*

A black rectangular box containing the text "JOHN FERNANDEZ PHOTOGRAPHY" in white. Below the text is a small image of a building at night with lights. At the bottom, the phone number "239.571.6293" and the email "john@johnfernandezphotography.net" and website "www.JohnFernandezPhotography.net" are listed in white.

JOHN FERNANDEZ  
P.H.O.T.O.G.R.A.P.H.Y

239.571.6293

john@johnfernandezphotography.net  
www.JohnFernandezPhotography.net