

Officers

President: Kerri Tonkin
1st VP: Lori Fayhee
2nd VP: Amira Fox
Treasurer: Chris Wappes
Asst. Treas: Roz Lesser
Recording Sec: Ruth Rodrigues
Corresponding Sec: Marilyn Kostik

Committee Chairs

Americanism: Germaine Hyatt
Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris
Caring for America: Ashley Winstel
Fundraising: Lori Fayhee
Legislative: Lori Fayhee
Membership/Hospitality: Peg Love/Joan Clark
Museum: Kerri Tonkin/Mary Snyder
Newsletter: Mary Snyder
Outreach: Mary Snyder
Publicity: Gail Langner
Reservations: Ashley Winstel/Mary Ann Hansen
Social Media: Mary Snyder

Non-Committee Positions

Past President: Doris Cortese
Chaplain: Terri Lee
Photographer: John Fernandez

THE MAHOUT The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

JANUARY 2019

Strong Women for a Strong America



STEVE RUSSELL

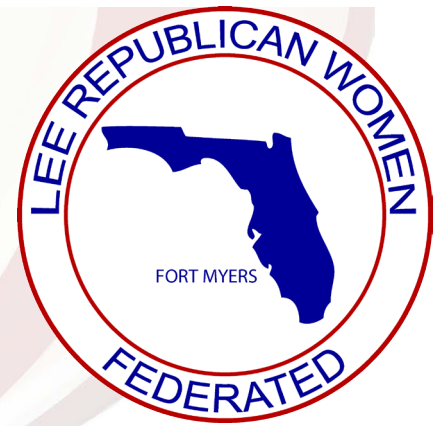
Florida State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit

From keeping criminals off the streets, to being named Florida's "Prosecutor of the Year" in 1988, Stephen Russell's "victims first" attitude and tenacious support of law enforcement were rewarded in November 2002 when voters elected him State Attorney for the 20th Judicial Circuit.

Since 1976, he has served the citizens of Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Lee Counties as a dedicated and focused prosecutor with the 20th Judicial Circuit. During his career, Russell has prosecuted more than 2,000 criminal cases, including murder, child abuse and public corruption, and has supervised the prosecution of tens of thousands more.

Russell was an organizer, director and the lead attorney in Stop Turning Out Prisoners' (STOP) successful campaign to end the disastrous early release of state prisoners. He actively lobbied the Florida Legislature, petitioned statewide, and successfully argued for STOP in the Florida Supreme Court. As a result of the STOP campaign, state prisoners must now serve a minimum of 85 percent of their sentences. Steve received his bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in education from the College of William and Mary before enrolling at Stetson College of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate and graduated in the top 10 of his class. He is licensed to practice law in Florida, Pennsylvania and Colorado, and is also admitted to practice in the U.S. Court of Appeals (5th and 11th Circuits), U.S. District Courts (Middle and Southern Districts of Florida), and the U. S. Supreme Court. He has also served as president of the Lee County Bar and as chair of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee 20A, and was appointed to Governor Crist's Task Force for the Remediation of Illicit Drug Labs as well as to the Governor's Correctional Policy Advisory Council.

State Attorney Russell resides in Ft. Myers and is the proud father of daughter Kimberly, also a William and Mary graduate.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"I'm a Christian, a conservative,
and a Republican, in that order."
Mike Pence*

JOIN US!

The next meeting of LRWF is January 14th at Pincher's Restaurant. at the Marina, in Fort Myers at 2360 West First Street. Social time starts at 11:15 AM with lunch following. Our speaker will be Steve Russell, State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit. He will speak about the crime trends in Florida over the last 50 years and the effect of the STOP (Stop Turning Out Prisoners) movement that he spearheaded.

The menu choices are:

1. Tuna Salad on a Croissant with Chips
2. Garden Green Salad with Chicken
3. Plain Caesar Salad

Dessert: Mini Cheesecake Tart

Reservation Deadline is Thursday,
January 10h at noon

For reservations call or text
Ashley Winstel at 602-708-8663 or
email acwinstel@gmail.com

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

**NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER:
To Be Announced!**



NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Beautiful Ladies and Gentlemen, Happy New Year! I trust this finds you all well and ready to begin a new year with Lee Republican Women Federated.

We are beginning our new year with a call to all members to join the board and myself in the Year of Outreach. 2019 is our chance to enhance our membership rolls and inform our community on whom we are, what we stand for and what we do. 2020 is closer than we think and we really need to get our message out and keep Florida **RED**.

I am challenging all of us, myself included, to bring in at least one new member into LRWF this year. The member who brings in the most new members will win a nice prize in December. We have many opportunities and different avenues in which to become involved and if any of you have ideas please bring them to me.

This year promises to have lunches and dinners full of great speakers, fun outings and informative events. I hope I can count on all of you to continue to support our great club and keep our mission going.

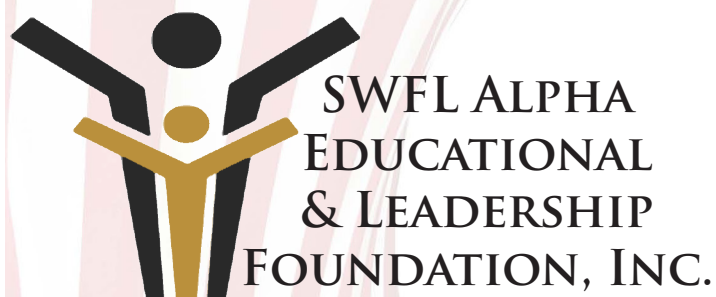
Blessings,
Kerri Tonkin, President



Kerri Tonkin
LRWF President

LADIES... THE LRWF OUTREACH YEAR BEGINS

Please join us for breakfast at the 2019 MLK UNITY Breakfast on Monday, January 21st! This first of many programs around our community to share who we are. If you are interested in joining us please contact Mary Snyder at 239-910-4634 or Kerri Tonkin at 907-321-0419 for reservations and more information. Also see below!



*The SWFL Alpha Educational & Leadership Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with the members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Xi Omicron Lambda Chapter, Mayor Randy Henderson and the City of Fort Myers is pleased to announce the upcoming **12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast.***

The 2019 breakfast will take place on Monday, January 21, 2019 at Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center located at 2301 First St., Ft. Myers, FL., beginning at 7:30AM.

The vision for the breakfast is to bring together diverse members of the community and serve as an example of "unity" as envisioned by Dr. King. We invite you to join us during this historic event as well as participate in the Dr. King commemorative march following breakfast. Transportation to the march starting location will be provided for attendees.

Our featured guest speaker will be Ft. Myers native, Dr. Isaac Brundage, Vice President Student Affairs and Enrollment Management – Western New Mexico University. In addition, please join us and help recognize some of our community leaders that espouse the spirit of Dr. King with our 2019 "Guardian of the Dream" Award:

- Mrs. Melvin Morgan – first & only Black County Commissioner. Elections building in Ft. Myers named in her honor.
- Mr. Abdul'Haq Muhammed – founder and Executive Director of Qualify Life Center of SWFL
- Mr. Johnny Streets, Jr. – Ft. Myers City Councilman – Ward 2 and community activist

Individual tickets are \$25.00.

***Come help us take our message to the community!
(2020 is closer than you think!)***

PROTECT THE MILITARY MISSION LINE FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING!

By Francis Rooney



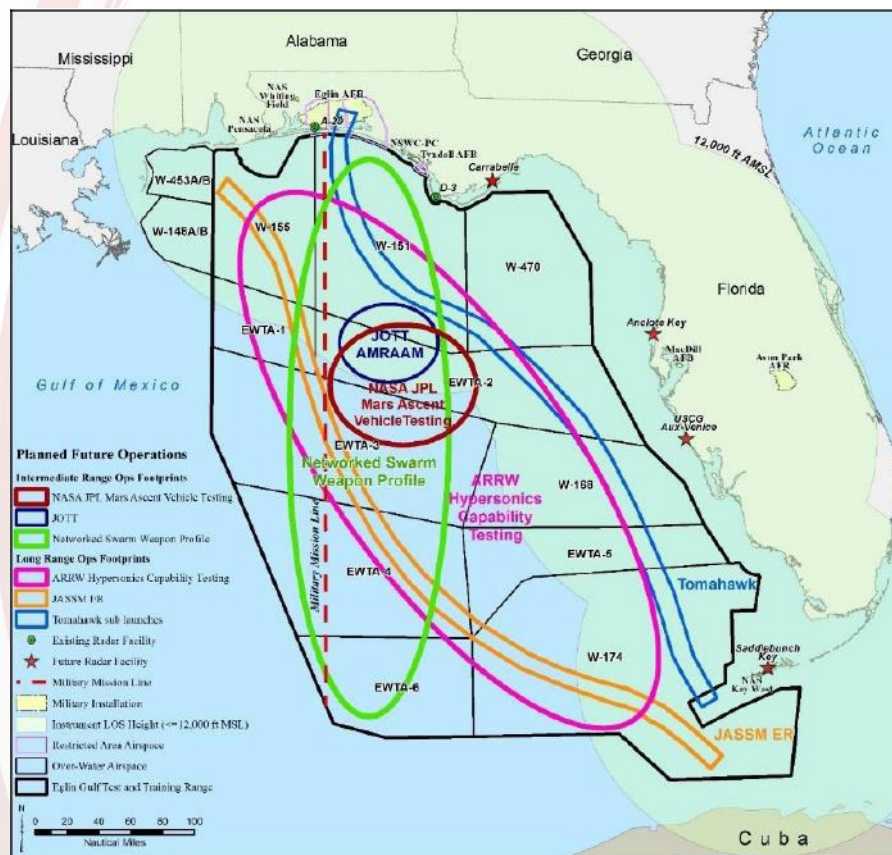
Francis Rooney
US House of Representatives

As the 116th Congress begins, the Florida delegation should unite to stop offshore drilling off the Gulf coast of Florida and must push Congress to enact legislation to make the moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM), eastward from the Military Mission Line (MML) at Long. 86 deg, 41 min., permanent. The MML was established by the 2006 GOMESA law to delineate the military testing area as being off limits to oil exploration. This moratorium will expire in June 2022 unless extended and it is rumored that the Department of Interior would like to permit seismic testing in this area. There is no rationale for seismic unless they expect to lease for drilling after June 2022.

Our Florida economy depends on tourism and a large military presence. Any potential, however remote or speculative, for the kinds of environmental damage we have seen take place in the other areas where drilling and production have been allowed will be devastating for our economy, environment and our future in Florida. There are plenty of places marketing for tourists where there is no risk of offshore drilling and we have to compete with them. Aside from the immediate existential risk of a large, multi-million barrel spill like Deepwater Horizon, there are numerous spills going on right now throughout the middle and western Gulf. One, the Taylor spill, has been discharging oil and chemicals into the Gulf offshore of Louisiana since 2004 and has released between 1.5 to 3.5 million barrels of oil in that period.

Additionally, we have a clockwise current in the near offshore Gulf, running right through one of the areas thought to have oil and gas, the Destin Dome. This current assures that any pollutants introduced into the Gulf off our north and west coasts will flow all the way down the coast across Florida Bay to the Keys.

Aside from risks to our tourism-based economy, our strong military presence throughout Florida needs the east central Gulf, east of the MML (this is why it was a military demarcation in the first place) for their exclusive use for testing, free of drilling rigs, platforms and supply vessel traffic. As the May 2018 Department of Defense report "Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico" clearly shows, the military is planning to increase testing out in the EGOM in the future:



In one of its most poignant references, the Department of Defense called the eastern Gulf of Mexico an "irreplaceable national asset" for combat force readiness and for accomplishing the goals of the 2018 National Defense Strategy. The MML creates a large-scale, flexible and irreplaceable training ground for our development of our leading defense technologies.

(Continued on next page)

(Offshore Drilling continued from previous page)

The growing threat assessment of security risks in the Arabian Gulf region make this training all the more important. The report notes several times that the proximity to major military bases and its large-scale make the EGOM area a unique asset. As 2019 begins and the 116th Congress begins, we want to ensure our constituents that we will continue to fight to permanently ban offshore drilling off our coast for national defense that cannot be replicated. It is important to mention the over \$70 billion in economic impact Florida's military bases have on our state, according to research by the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

Lastly, the people of Florida are clearly opposed to offshore drilling. The November 2018 ballot contained a ban on offshore drilling, Amendment 9, which won with over 68% in favor. This widespread support should indicate to the entire Florida delegation, members of both parties and both chambers, that voters are overwhelmingly against letting the moratorium expire in 2022. Floridians are well aware that all of our livelihoods depend on a pristine environment, and that offshore drilling in the Gulf threatens our futures.

Fundraising Fun

SPRING FASHION SHOW
APRIL 2019

Ladies our spring fashion show is going to be here before we know it. Please bring any designer bags, gently used scarves and jewelry to our January 14, 2019 luncheon at Pinchers. The fashion show is scheduled for April 8, 2019 at the Forrest Country Club. It promises to be a fun filled spring fashion show with Razzle Dazzle hosting. But we need your help, so please donate any designer bags you are no longer using. We are also going to be doing theme baskets again so if you feel the urge to be creative and donate a basket for our fundraiser please contact me and get on the list. Thank you in advance, Kerri

Ladies,

We will not be meeting in the month of January. We will resume on February 6. We will be reading *Ship of Fools*, by Tucker Carlson. Carlson tell the story of the new American elites, a group whose power and wealth has grown beyond imagination even as the rest of the country has withered. The people who run America now barely interact with it. They fly on

their own planes, ski on their own mountains, watch sporting events far from the stands in skyboxes. They have total contempt for you.

The book offers a blistering critique of our new overlords. Traditional liberals are gone. The hand-wringers who worried about whales and defended free speech, have been replaced by globalists who hide their hard-edged economic agenda behind a smokescreen of identity politics. They'll outsource your job while lecturing you about transgender bathrooms. Left and right are no longer meaningful categories in America. The rift is between those who benefit from the status quo, and those who don't.

Our leaders are fools, unaware that they are the captains of a sinking ship. This book answers the all-important question: How do we put this country back on course?

We will meet again at Mel's Diner on US 41. We meet from 1:00-3:00 PM. We always have an enjoyable lunch and good discussions. Please plan to join us for a meeting of ladies who share our political views.

If you plan to attend, please call or email me, so we may plan accordingly.

Look forward to seeing you,

Cheryl Harris
239-225-7390

timcherylharris@aol.com



We welcome four new members enthusiastically!!

Lorraine Albino-Hinkley
2090 West 1st Street, #809
Ft. Myers, Fl 33901
239-850-4112
lorraine_albino_hinkley@hotmail.com

Associate Member
Steve Ambers
1196 Alabar Lane
Cape Coral, Fl 33909
239-707-1171
blackjeep526@gmail.com

Betty Baker
5216 Bywood Street
Lehigh Acres, Fl 33971
239634-3170
rdybety49@embarqmail.com

Margo Parr
6210 Riverwood Drive NW
Atlanta, GA 30328
239-464-7654
MargoParr1@gmail.com

Happy New Year!



Renew your membership at:

<https://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/store>

Please note, regarding new Name Tags...

As of January 1st, 2019 the cost for a name tag will be \$10.00. The cost to the Club is \$9.50 and we just rounded it off!! You may place an order at the registration desk at each meeting or you may contact me at:

peglove810@gmail.com
or call 941-740-0228.

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Websites



*Amira Fox
Fl State Attorney*



*Francis Rooney
U.S. Congressman
Dist. 19*



*Cecil Pendergrass
Lee County Commissioner*



*Spencer Roach
Fl House of Representatives*



*Brian Hammon
Lee County Commissioner*



*Linda Doggett
Lee County Clerk of Courts*



*Larry Hart
Lee Co. Tax Collector*



*My Opinion
By Mary Snyder*

THE GREAT WALL

Are we all tired of hearing about the wall? I know I am. I have heard all I want to hear from the Democrats. We are talking about safety. I hope and pray that our wonderful President doesn't give in even if it means he has to close the government until 2020.

First of all, closing the government is necessary. I realize it is a hardship on those who are waiting for paychecks, but Schumer and Pelosi don't seem to care. A few years ago Schumer, Clinton and Obama all fought for border security and stated that a wall was needed. Trump was right. They were for the wall until he campaigned on it. They will do anything to make him look bad...including putting Americans at risk and shutting down the government which will hurt a

lot of people financially. Take a look at the chart below which shows you how many people will go without checks and the percentages of those who will be furloughed. Note that Veteran's Affairs will have all but 4% of their work force.

AGENCY	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	FURLOUGHED	SHARE OF EMPLOYEES
Housing and Urban Development	7800	7500	96%
Environmental Protection Agency	14400	13700	95%
Education	3900	3700	95%
Commerce	47900	41600	87%
Labor	15400	12800	83%
Interior	70400	56600	80%
Treasury	88000	48500	55%
Health and Human Services	81900	41000	50%
Defense (Civilian Workforce)	740000	370000	50%
Transportation	55200	20500	37%
Justice	114600	19500	17%
Social Security Administration	63200	10400	16%
Homeland Security	241400	31200	13%
Veteran Affairs	377000	15900	4%

As you can see from the chart, the departments that could most adversely affect the public if left unmanned, have the lowest percentage of furloughed employees. It's going to be rough for the ones that are furloughed and even for the ones working without pay, however we must look at what is at stake.

If we play chicken and back off of our commitment to this wall, we will have more children than ever making the trip across Mexico with their parents or people posing as their parents and more chances of children dying or being kidnapped or sexually abused.

According to the American Thinker... "Back near the Guatemalan border end of the journey back in late October, at least one migrant kid was kidnapped right there. Now a hundred migrants have disappeared from this caravan. Apparently someone rolled a truck up, told the migrants they were getting a free ride, lured them in, and nobody's seen them since. Their crying kids should be fine fodder on the hip of some trafficker as he seeks to get in as a "family unit" claiming asylum and benefits from "catch and release." The women may end up in border brothels. The men may end up as drug mules or in mass graves. The perverse incentive to kidnap is already there, and sure enough, some criminal likely embedded in the group started harvesting."

Now NBC and The Hill are reporting that migrant women are organizing as a group to find their lost children on these journeys, which would have to include the current caravan, which up until now has been justified as a "safe" way for migrants to travel.

So what do you say? Open the government and cave in to immoral Schumer and Pelosi who only want to line their pockets with power and money? Or close the government until all migrants are safe...not to mention...Americans.

Nancy Pelosi...what is immoral about this wall? You are the poorest excuse for morality that I have ever seen...you in your mansion surrounded by a WALL!!!!

TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER PROMOTING 'OPPORTUNITY ZONES' IN DISTRESSED AREAS



President Donald Trump

President Trump signed an executive order this month to create a new White House council for promoting private investment in “opportunity zones” in more than 8,700 distressed communities across the U.S., aiming to expand prosperity to neglected zip codes. Many of these areas are in distressed black communities, so it is just one more thing that President Trump has done to help our blacks. Is he racist? I think not.

“With the creation of today’s council, the resources of the whole federal government will be leveraged to rebuild low-income and impoverished neighborhoods that have been ignored by Washington in years past,” the president said.

The council for these Opportunity Zones will be chaired by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson. This council will help streamline applications for communities to qualify for the investments..

“Our goal is to ensure that America’s great new prosperity is broadly shared by all of

our citizens,” Mr. Trump said. “We are drawing investment into neglected and underserved communities of America so that all Americans, regardless of zip code, have access to the American Dream.” White House officials said they hope the program will attract as much as \$100 billion to those communities. Until now, economic development has taken place only in large metropolitan areas.

NEW RESERVATION CHAIR

Hello Ladies and Gents, by way of introduction I am the new reservation chair Ashley Winstel and I wanted to be sure you all know to send reservations to the right email address going forward. You can make reservations by going on the web at LeeRepublicanWomen.com or by sending me an email or text. My email address is acwinstel@gmail.com or text to 602-708-8663. In order to accommodate the restaurant we must have a reservation count in by the Thursday before the meeting is to be held so please respond accordingly. Remember a reservation made is a reservation to be paid. Thank you for your attention in advance. I also want to thank Wren Morefield for her years of hard work as our previous Reservation Chair.

Ashley Winstel, Reservation Chair



Ashley Winstel, Reservation Chair

JOHN FERNANDEZ 2018 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

John Fernandez, our wonderful photographer, has been named Photographer of the Year for all of Fort Myers. We always knew he was great and now we have proof!

John graciously comes to our meetings and gives us as much time as he can so that we can have all of the beautiful photos that we have.

Visit his site at <https://www.johnfernandezphotography.net/> or see the photos that he has taken for us by going to our website at <https://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/> and then click on PHOTO GALLERY.

Don't forget to ask John when you need a real pro!



*John Fernandez
Photographer of the Year*



The Month in Pictures



Mike and Amira Fox by the tree!



Above is a plaque awarded to Doris and left is Doris with flowers given to her...our beloved outgoing President!



*Laura Winstel with her grandma...
Kerri Tonkin...new LRWF President!*



*Above...outgoing and incoming LRWF
treasurers. Mindy Moran and
Chris Wappes!*



*Left...two Lee Health Board Members...
Donna Clarke and Therese Everly.*



*Three Federation Presidents...
Doris Cortese, Kerri Tonkin and Missi
Lastra of our sister club in the Cape.*



*Above...meet your new LRWF board!
Left to right are Kerri Tonkin, Amira
Fox, Lori Fayhee Chris Wappes,
Marilyn Kostik and
Ruth Rodrigues.*



*On the right...turning over the gavel
from Doris to Kerri!*



Above is Priscilla Grannis, Past President of the Naples federated club showing love to Doris...now a Past President of our federated club.



Priscilla is also on the left with Kerri... our new LRWF President! (Priscilla performed the inauguration ceremonies.)



On the right...our speaker... Karna Small Bodman!

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



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