



The Mahout

(the keeper and driver of the elephant)

Newsletter of Lee

Republican Women Federated

Part of the Florida Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

March, 2010

Republican Women are the Life of the Party

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Awards: Michele Duryea

Book Chat/MELP: Martha Robinson

Bylaws: Shirley O'Donnell

Campaign: Judy O'Donnell

Caring for America: Renie Frank

Chaplin: Carolyn Nelson

Community Outreach: Robyn Orndoff/
Diane Palermo

Fundraising: Ali Miller/ Evelyn Hardman

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March 8th Luncheon Meeting

The March Luncheon features our own Sharon Harrington, Supervisor of Elections. She will highlight the importance of Absentee Ballots in the Primary, how to do it, how they are counted, and so on. Sharon always has interesting information on the election process.

Also on the Program – before lunch – we will have a presentation by a Paws for Patriots representative along with one of the dogs in training. We'll see up front and personal what our Caring for America project is all about. This is special! Lunch is Asian Chicken Salad & Peach Cobbler for dessert.



- \$16.00 inclusive
- 11:15 t o 11:45AM Social Time
- 11:45AM Luncheon and Program
- Reservation Deadline 3/04/10
- Call or email Mary Ann at 432-9389
Or RMH738@aol.com or email only to
Judy at judyod@comcast.net
- Make checks to LRWF.
- See page 3 for a special candidate check to bring. \$10 or more for Elinor.
- Remember a reservation made is a reservation paid.



President's Message

Hello LRWF Members:

I am happy to announce that there will be 6 members of LRWF traveling to Tallahassee for the 2010 FFRW Board of Directors Meeting and Conference. I am certain that we will have a great deal of information to share with you upon our return. I promise to give a complete update at our March luncheon meeting and I am sure we will have photos to share in next month's newsletter.

LRWF also launched its Community Outreach committee this month.

Committee Co Chairs Robyn Orndoff and Diane Palermo lead the way as we discussed the purpose of the committee and investigated possible strategies and projects for the committee to work on.

The definition of community outreach is an effort by individuals in an organization or group to connect with other organizations, groups, specific audiences, or the general public and share their ideas and practices. In lots of instances it involves an educational component, like the dissemination of ideas.

In order to define our strategies we needed to look at the Bylaws of our organization. We found that one of our objectives is to develop an outreach program that will help expand our Republican base to reflect the diversity of our country.

According to a Gallup poll conducted in May, 2009, The Republican Party is first and foremost a political entity dominated by white Americans. Eighty- nine percent of the Republican rank-and-file are Non-Hispanic whites, leaving just 5% who are

Hispanic, 2% who are black, and 4% of other races. We, as Republicans, need to reach out!

After much discussion, we chose to focus our efforts on black and Hispanic women living in Lee County who are registered Republican. You might be surprised to know that there are 3,315 women who fall into this category. We need to reach out to these women, make a connection, and then promote our republican values and ideals in their communities.

We have our work cut out for us, but until we make an effort we cannot be successful. Right now we are working on establishing a database of those 3, 315 women. We are hoping to eventually set up phone bank sessions where we call and chat, women to women about issues that are important to us and our families. We are also attempting to make connections within the Hispanic and black communities by contacting various community groups; such as, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Harlem Heights Community Center and the Heights Foundation. We need to be visible and we need to spread our message.

Please let Robyn and Diane know if you are interested in helping with our Community Outreach Committee

(robyndannielle@yahoo.com or dianepalermo21@aol.com). This is only one of many projects this committee hopes to work on. Your help and ideas will be most welcomed.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our March 8th Luncheon Meeting,

Cindy



The Book Chat on Sarah Palin's book, *Going Rogue*, was a success. (l to r) Shirley, Cindy, Judy, Martha, Pat, and Margit. Brenda Hess took the picture. The large Blue bottle of wine in the center of the table is what makes the Chats so much fun! OOPS! See the website for a description of the book.

Next Chat is on March 31st at Shirley O'Donnells home at 2:00pm. Let Shirley know if you can attend (945-4201). The book is: *Woodrow Wilson and the Roots of Modern Liberalism* by Ronald J. Pestritto.

The February Meeting was most interesting with State Attorney Steve Russell and Public Defender Kathleen Smith.



Steve wants you to stop watching CSI and Kathleen loves that the public is treated to such wonderful evidence which they then expect when on a jury trial.

Tallahassee Days

Thanks to Mary Jo Hoyman, LRWF will have the very best item for the Silent Auction fund raiser during the FFRW Tally Days.



Mary Jo does counted cross-stitch and this outstanding work features America with Liberty and Justice for all. Depicted are: Mount Rushmore, our flag, a soaring eagle, the Liberty Bell, the Capitol, and a military cap. We can't thank Mary Jo enough; she is always ready to lend her expertise to our silent auction efforts. Many members of LRWF have Hoyman originals in their homes. We already have a bid of \$250 to start the silent auction. Thank you, Mary Jo. She and Mike also attended the NFRW convention in Orlando and the FFRW meeting which followed. We are so pleased to have a member who not only supports LRWF, but also the State and Federal organizations.

\$10 or More for Elinor

Plan to bring your check book to the March meeting as we dedicate it as help Elinor Scricca Day. Elinor has been a longtime supporter of our club – even postponing a vacation once because we needed a “replacement speaker”. Any amount will be appreciated, as Elinor does have an opponent in her School Board race.

Fund RAISING

Garage Sale a Success



Fund Raising Co-Chairs, Ali Miller and Evelyn

Hardman set up at the Fleamarket. Our booth cost \$54 for the weekend. We had tons of “stuff” to sell.



Mary Ann and Anita had fun working the event.

A windblown Judy, Ali and Clara sell & sell.



Ali and Evelyn are pleased to announce that we made, after paying for the booth, a grand total of: \$1,210.00. Way to go, ladies! We still need to determine our contribution to the FFRW: but, we did a great job thanks to our super chairs.

Hats Off to Ali and Evelyn....



Health Care



As the Florida Legislature Starts:

There are 120 House members who serve a two year term.

There are 40 Senate members who serve a four year term.

The committee process is the heart of the legislative process.

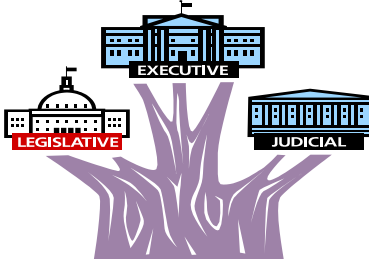
We should lobby committee members for the passage of bills.

The only bill required to be passed by the end of session is the state budget for the following fiscal year.

Legislative session is 60 days (March to April). Know your legislative delegation, and their committee assignments.

Develop an on-going relationship with your legislators – **not only an election relationship.**

Republicans are in the majority in both the House and the Senate. Our job as political activists is to hold their feet to the fire to write and support Legislation that upholds our Republican principals.



Legislative Update

This month we asked Senator Garrett Richter District 27 to contribute to our column. He provided a commentary titled “What’s going on with banks and foreclosures?” We will share some of the highlights of this and provide a full copy to anyone interested by email. As Chairman of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, Senator Richter has been contacted by a number of constituents and colleagues to discuss frustrations about the delayed foreclosure process, especially as it relates to condominiums. He has received a great deal of input on all sides of the issue.

Over the last two years, our court systems have been swamped with thousands of foreclosures in Lee and Collier Counties. To help increase the resources and efficiency of handling all of these cases, the Florida Legislature raised the foreclosure fee banks pay the court from \$295 to about \$1,900 during the 2009 Legislative Session.

Most recently, Florida’s Supreme Court issued an administrative order that requires banks to enter into a mandatory mediation with the borrower. While Senator Richter understands the intention of the Supreme Court, it is estimated that this requirement would add at least another 90 days to the foreclosure process. The average foreclosure is taking between 12-14 months and adding this mandatory mediation will continue to prolong the process.

Lenders’ risk associated with condo loans would increase dramatically if it were mandated that banks pay for all of the past and present association fees. This would decrease the affordability and reduce the

market for good condominium loans. It could also attract bad lenders to make aggressive loans which were a major cause of the housing bubble to begin with. The combination of all these factors would reduce the value of condominiums and could have long-term implications that would be the opposite of what associations’ desire.

Some colleagues and constituents point out that the banks received “bailout” money from the federal government and for that reason, should not be foreclosing and instead should be granting more loans. The “bailout” known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program was to provide security to the financial system through the government purchase of toxic assets. The TARP program was designed to stabilize our financial system.

Senator Richter agrees that the foreclosure process needs to be expedited. There are also many politicians on the other side of the issue that “don’t want to kick people out of their homes” in this economy. Senator Richter believes to find a middle ground on the two opposing views, we need to focus on expediting the foreclosure process on abandoned and non-homesteaded properties. These account for a large portion of Florida’s foreclosures and with swift action, we could greatly reduce the burden our associations are dealing with.

Senator Richter expects this topic will be debated passionately during the 2010 Legislative Session and looks forward to a solution that is fair to borrowers, lenders and neighbors that will stabilize the housing market.

If you would like a complete copy of Senator Richter’s commentary please email us and we will provide it. Also, if you would like us to cover a topic or check on an issue, please let us know.

Have a great month!

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