



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



FEBRUARY 2016

EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE

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Conservatism Under Attack? What These Men All Have In Common

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Our topic for this month's luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, February 2, 2016** at the Wyndam Garden Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **Caddo Parish School Board member Barry F. Rachal**. There are three (3) property tax renewals that will be on the ballot in April, and all of these renewals fund the Caddo Parish School System.

Barry has introduced a measure to the School Board that will lower property taxes, and he will address the chronic issue of property owners bearing the heaviest burden of these taxes in our community, while there are so many non-property owners voting to increase taxes, even though they do not pay them.

He will also discuss the issue of whether that practice is fair, and explores whether there is possibly another way to fund public education in Caddo Parish that is more fair, and that will ensure a better educated

community for all, for the next generation to come.

Barry was elected to the CPSB in 2004, and joined the Caddo Republican PEC in 2008. Having owned and operated businesses in Shreveport since 1981, he is now the owner/broker of



River Cities Realty. He is a lifelong resident of Shreveport, and has been married to Collette Rachal for 32 years. They are the proud parents of Haley Coppedge and Benjamin Rachal, and the grandparents of Jack Coppedge.

Join us Tuesday and let's discuss. Reservations not required. Eating is \$13 and listening is free.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Republicans,



Many admire that he says things other people are afraid to say. The conventional wisdom was that his popularity would fizzle, but instead, it has sizzled. He's just a showman, they say. He's been called an entertainer, and criticized as not being a politician. He's not spent any time volunteering for political campaigns, walking neighborhoods, door-to-door, or spent much time at all in Washington, D.C. or pandering to the political class, or establishment politics.

In fact, they say he is taking full advantage of the lack of leadership in the GOP, and having a little fun at his fellow Republicans' expense. He's been viewed as a growing problem for the Republican Party and a serious liability that continues to damage the GOP brand. He's even been called "incendiary" and "ugly" by the chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Many dyed-in-the-wool conservatives feel he has become a clown and a laughingstock to the general public. They cringe when he says what he says about the issues, and conservative supporters become almost apologetic to their "more enlightened" family and friends, to excuse his comments. They almost always follow-up nervously, and dramatically, with the reminder that, "He just cares so much about this country, and wants to see it great again."

And while many of you may think you know exactly who we're talking about here, the rest of you think we're talking about Donald Trump – but we're not. In fact, every comment, which has been recited above, has been said, or written about, Rush Limbaugh. Yes, Rush Limbaugh. And yet it is also being said, almost verbatim, about Trump, as well.

Even with such criticism of Rush, and after almost 25 years of folks demonizing him, 20

million Americans still tune in every day to listen to Rush, and his message. Many say it's because he lifts the spirit of the average conservative American, who feels that our country's best days are slipping behind us, and that the American dream no longer exists. Like Trump, and with pep-talk enthusiasm, many say that Rush makes his listeners believe that America is still an exceptional nation, that it's best days are still ahead, and that Americans are capable of doing the extraordinary, when it comes to their own personal achievement. And like Trump, Rush may not be an expert on foreign diplomacy, agricultural subsidies, or military strategy, but his activism produces public action because his message inspires.

You see, the message of Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, or Rush Limbaugh is much larger than these men, their fame, or fortune: it's about we, the people, and realizing our greatest and best potential comes from within us, granted by God – not from what some government bureaucrat decides is best for us. This message is why Rush Limbaugh now has 20 million listeners a day, and why Trump continues to lead in the polls.

Trump may not be the best politician, or the best nominee, but as conservatives, we just want it to be morning again in America. And we want a leader, whatever his name, to want it as badly as we do.

In closing, and as always, please consider making a contribution to the Caddo Republican PEC, or to volunteer your time. Contributions of any amount may be made by mailing a check to: **Caddo RPEC, 1941-C East 70th Street, Shreveport, LA 71105** or by clicking the following link to contribute by credit or debit card, <http://bit.ly/CaddoRPEC> (but you don't need a Paypal account to contribute online).

Very truly yours,

Louis R. Avallone

MEDALLION CLUB

Join The Ranks!

The 2016 Medallion Club membership drive is beginning and we are grateful for the tremendous support, and unwavering commitment of our Caddo Parish Republican supporters. As many of you know, the Medallion Club effort raises the necessary funds to run the office, pay for the newsletter, and conduct other Party activities. Gold Medallion members level is \$200 and above, Medallion membership is \$100-199 and Supporter level membership is up to \$99. You can contribute online by visiting <http://bit.ly/CaddoRPEC> or checks may be dropped off to the office at 1941-C East 70th Street, Shreveport 71105. Contributions are not tax deductible. **Gold Medallion: Jean Laster, Medallion: Jim Allen,,Martha Allen, Steve Riall, and Olive Stuart.**

ELECTION DAY COMING UP: MARCH 5

A reminder to vote next month March 5, 2016, for the election of members to both the Republican Parish Executive Committee and the Republican State Central Committee. The Caddo Republican Executive Committee (RPEC) consists of 12 district members and 5 at-large members. The Caddo delegation to the State Central Committee (SCC) consists of 13 districts, which are subdivisions of the State Senate districts.



Of the 17 positions available on the Caddo PEC, candidates qualified unopposed for 14 seats, but two (2) candidates qualified for the 8th district: Louis R. Avallone and Martha Belchic. Of the 13 positions on the SCC, two (2) candidates, Jim Allen and Martha Belchic, qualified in the District 37C seat, and Richie Burford and Ed Lazarus qualified in the District 38D seat. You'll also be voting for your Louisiana presidential preference, as well.

What is a Presidential Preference? It's a series of presidential primary elections held in each state and territory that is part of the nominating process of presidential elections. Participation in a primary is governed by rules established by the Republican and Democratic state parties, or any other political party with 40,000 or more electors registered. The last presidential preference primary in Louisiana was held on the third Saturday after the first Tuesday in March in 2012 and is now being held every fourth year thereafter.

Each elector voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the elector, except that the state central committee of a recognized political party may allow in its bylaws, electors who are not affiliated with any political party to cast a vote on the ballot of such recognized political party.

FLEMING SEAT DRAWS CONTENDERS

The list of potential candidates continues to grow for the 4th District Congressional seat, now that John Fleming is running for U.S. Senate. Seven (7) contenders so far appear to be in the race, and three (3) of these men have not held elected office, which may reflect the sentiment of the voters for making wholesale change in Washington, D.C.:



Here they are in alphabetical order:

- 1) Dr. Trey Baucum (R), Shreveport cardiologist,
- 2) State Rep. Patrick Jefferson (D) of Arcadia,
- 3) Shreveport City Councilman Oliver Jenkins (R),
- 4) State Representative Mike Johnson (R),
- 5) Shreveport Attorney Richard "Ricky" John (R),
- 6) State Representative Jim Morris (R) of Oil City, and
- 7) Businessman Michael Reese (R) of Leesville.

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The **Women's Republican Club of Shreveport (WRC)** meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:45 a.m. at **East Ridge Country Club**. Lunch is \$18.00. Reservations can be made by emailing rsvp.wrc@gmail.com or calling 795-0870 and leave a message. Men are invited to attend and join as associates.

The **Professional Republican Women (PRWC)** meets at 6:00 p.m. at Savoie's The Catering Place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Email PRWC1989@gmail.com or contact Pam Gutekunst

(pamgutkunst@bellsouth.net, 797-0802) for reservations (menu is fried catfish, unless chef salad is requested in advance). Men are welcome to attend and join as associates. Meals at \$12.00.

The **Republican Women of Bossier (RWB)** meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Stonebridge Country Club. "Meet and Greet" starts at 5:30 p.m. Meals are \$18.00. Listening is free. Email Gail Bradley at rwbmeal@gmail.com or by calling her at 572-5853, for reservations (RSVP, please, by the Monday before). Men are welcome as associates.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 2** - GOP Luncheon, "Tax And More Tax"
- Feb. 14** - Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16** - PRWC dinner
- Feb. 17** - WRC luncheon
- Feb. 18** - PEC Meeting
- Feb. 23** - RWB dinner

THE CADDO REPUBLICAN is the monthly newsletter of the Caddo Republican Party. Mail articles, suggestions, recommendations, and complaints to the Editor at **1941-C E. 70th St., Shreveport, LA 71105** or via email louisavallone@caddogop.com. This newsletter is designed to provide information regarding the subject matter covered. The editors are NOT engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, please seek the services of a competent professional. The opinions expressed are those of the Editors and contributors and not necessarily those of the Party.

OFFICERS AND KEY OFFICIALS

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Chairman | Louis R. Avallone | 841-1277 | • Professional Republican Women | Susan Taylor | 869-2795 |
| • Vice Chairman | Barry Rachal | 469-2277 | • Women's Republican Club of S'port | Jolene Woods | 617-7262 |
| • Treasurer | Micheal Collins | 207-0405 | • Candidate Assistance Co-Chairs | Betsy/Max Malone | 868-3464 |
| • Secretary | Nancy Adcock | 458-1637 | • Parliamentarian/Publicity Chair | Betsy Malone | 868-3464 |
| • Committee Attorney | Louis R. Avallone | 841-1277 | • Louisiana State Republican Party | | 225-389-4495 |
| • Caddo/Bossier Republican Office | | 797-1777 | • Webmaster | Allen Marsalis | 841-0199 |

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