



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



MAY 2015

EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE

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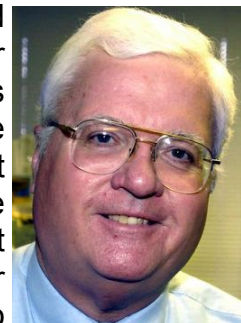
Showdown at the Schoolhouse: May 2 Have You Done Your Homework?

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Speaker for this month's luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, May 5, 2015** at the Wyndam Garden Hotel (formerly the Clarion Hotel) on E. 70th Street will be **Caddo Registrar of Voters, Ernie Roberson**. Roberson has been Registrar of Voters for Caddo Parish since 1990.

Ernie is Louisiana's first nationally certified Registrar of Voters. Fewer than one percent of all election administrators in America have obtained national certification. Ernie is the only Registrar of Voters from the "deep south" selected to serve on two national task forces on elections in 2001 and 2005. The task force was comprised wholly of election administrators from throughout the U.S. The Help America Vote Act passed in 2002 and used the recommendations of this national task force, and specifically used two Louisiana election practices for a model nationwide.

He has also chaired numerous committees for the Registrar of Voters Association, including the committee that recommended to the Legislature the most stringent standards for Louisiana registrars to



become certified election administrators. At the time of its adoption, it was the only such program in the country. Did you know that Caddo Parish is the only parish in Louisiana to utilize community groups to aid the Registrar's office on election day or to help voters locate their correct polling place through internet access. It's true. The "Where Do I Vote?" program first started in Caddo Parish in 2006.

In an environment of declining voter participation, you'll want to be sure and join us on May 5.

Reservations not required. Eating is \$13, no cost to just listen, and free parking.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Fellow Republicans,

The dictionary is of no real help when looking to define “public servant”. Jesus Christ was a public servant and it was through humility, personal sacrifice, taking risks, and maintaining a vision, that he served others best. It’s a style of leadership based on giving without the need for recognition. And it may be disappearing altogether.

Consider the service of Judge Charles Scott to our community since 1973. His passing last month is a devastating one for our community, and there are hardly any words that can express this sadness for the generations of this community he has served.

It is fitting, to call to mind the saying, “They don’t make men like him anymore”. And they don’t. In fact, a recent study of 18-29 year olds by Harvard University showed not only are young people disgusted with politics, and are skeptical of its usefulness to make meaningful change, there is also now a reluctance of good candidates to run for public office.

This is especially prevalent among young people, where only 1 out of 3 believe running for public office is honorable, and even fewer feel that the idea of working in some form of public service is appealing to them – and the numbers show it. In 2012, for example, nearly half of state legislative districts in our country did not have any competition from both major political parties, marking the lowest level of competition in over 10 years.

So, from where will the next generation of public servants be inspired to serve our communities, when only 1 in 3 believe running for public office is honorable? That’s hard to say because our electorate increasingly is more interested in whether Kim Kardashian and Kanye West flew coach

on a recent trip to Armenia, than they are to learn more about politics.

In order for our communities to attract the brightest talent to public service, we must have a more informed electorate. Fewer engaged voters will eventually reduce the pool of talented candidates to a handful of those barely worth keeping in office at all.

While it may be true that how any one of us votes may not matter much, it is how WE vote together, though, that has consequences. Our votes can encourage businesses to relocate to our community, or cause them to leave, through the taxes we vote for or the quality of candidates we elect. We can improve the education of our children, and increase the quality of our workforce, or we can spend millions of dollars on policies and programs that will do anything but that.

No, they may not be making men or women exactly like Judge Scott any longer, but we can grow folks more like him to serve the public as he did, through developing a more informed electorate – or, through our apathy, we can simply watch more good men and women run from office, instead.

In closing, and as always, I’d like to ask you to consider making a contribution to the Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee, or to volunteer your time. Your support helps maintain a local office, publish a monthly newsletter, and conduct important Party-building activities aimed to recruit, as well as support Party members throughout the parish. Contributions of any amount, from \$50 to \$100 to \$200 (and higher) 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

JUDGE SCOTT'S PASSING

Caddo Parish and Shreveport bid farewell to Caddo District Attorney Charles Rex Scott last month, who for more than four decades served



the parish and Shreveport legal communities through work as a private and public attorney and city and district judge. Judge Scott was a frequent Republican luncheon guest and was supported by many of the local Republican faithful. His service transcended politics, as Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Scott Crichton said, "The service captured his spirit...he was really a true public servant. He was a leader and a mentor and a champion for the system of justice. And he was so involved with this community. He was seen at almost every event, usually with his wife. He was a dedicated public servant. He will be missed."

MEDALLION CLUB (IS GROWING)

Now, Contribute By Credit Card Too

The 2015 Medallion Club membership drive well underway. 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:** William Golden, M.F. Graham, Gary Moore, Austin G. Robertson, Jr., Dee Simpson, Jim and Martha

Allen, Harold and Margaret Coates, B.L. "Buddy" Shaw, G.A. Frierson, II, Maudie M. Lawson, **PRWC**; **Medallion:** M.T. Arceneaux, Jack Daniel, **Ted Roberts**, Elmo Norton, George Penfield, Oliver Jenkins, Max Edwards, Barrow Peacock, Mike Thibodeaux, Steve C. Gibson, Women's Republican Club of Shreveport, **Frances A. Simpson** and **Steve Riall**. **Supporter:** Olive Stuart, Blanca Collins, and Stanley Kolniak.

GOV. HUCKABEE: READY, SET...GO!

Jensen Young, Louisiana Captain for Mike Huckabee for America invites you to join former Arkansas governor and Fox News host Mike Huckabee on May 5, at 10:00 a.m. when Governor Huckabee will make his 2016 announcement in Hope, Arkansas. The event will be held at Hempstead Hall (2500 South Main Street) The event is a ticketed event, so please follow the link here to get your tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mike-huckabee-announcement-tickets-16644435956>. Hope is roughly 1-1/2 hours north from Shreveport, of course, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call Jensen at 225-241-6645.

TAXES TAKE THE WEEKEND

One of the bigger issues on the ballot in the May 2 election is the \$108 million dollar bond proposal. Officials say voting yes and approving the bond would move the district forward, but not everyone agrees. The money will not go towards teacher salaries, curriculum or training. The funds will go to close 6 schools, build 3 new ones, and update the infrastructure of others. Opponents say that the school district is merely doubling the debt of the school system, even as the system experiences declining enrollment. Also on the ballot is the Biomedical Research Institute tax renewal. This tax is not new, but an existing property tax. It would renew for 15 years beginning in 2018 and ending in 2032, generating approximately \$3 million each year.

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Shreveport, LA 71105



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CADDO STRONG

If you are an email subscriber to the newsletter, please don't forget to advise the editor (louisavallone@caddogop.com) when you change your email address. If you are not, subscribe via **full-color** email by emailing the editor today!

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

(pamgutekunst@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 Azalea Room of Good Eats, 2171 Airline Drive. "Meet and Greet" starts at 5:30 p.m. Meals are \$20.00. Listening is free. Call Robin Rue-Graves (965-5001), robinsbirdnest@yahoo.com for reservations (RSVPs, please, by Wednesdays prior to meeting). Men are welcome as associates.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 5** - GOP Luncheon, Caddo Registrar Ernie Roberson
- May 21** - PEC meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 19** - PRWC dinner
- May 20** - WRC luncheon
- May 25** - **Memorial Day**
- May 26** - 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.

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