THE CADDO REPUBLICAN

JANUARY 2017 | EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE | VOLUME 23, EDITION 1

Embracing the "Power of Positivity" and American Exceptionalism…again!

This Month's Meeting

Our guest speakers for this month's luncheon at **12 noon** on **Tuesday, January 3, 2017** at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on E. 70th Street will be news radio talk show hosts, **Robert J. Wright** and **Erin McCarty.**

If you believe that Martin Luther King Jr., was right when he said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," then you will have lots in common with, and will very much enjoy visiting with Robert and Erin on Tuesday at noon, as they share with us their experiences, both "on-air" and "off", from interviewing many leaders in our city and state, and asking several of the questions that are already on the minds of so many, even if considered controversial or political incorrect by others.

In fact, Robert and Erin have facilitated some of the most critical, and dramatic, conversations in our community. From the recent proposed Shreveport garbage tax debacle, to the future of LSUMC, to the absences of Shreveport City Councilwoman Stephanie Lynch, as well as providing a platform to former Mayor Cedric Glover to answer questions of corruption during his administration from demographer Elliott Stonecipher — Robert and Erin have been criticized and praised from both sides of the "fence", but objectively, there is hardly anyone who wouldn't say they don't care deeply about our community. And as we begin 2017, we not only want to make America great again, but we want to do the same right here at home, too.

Robert returned home to Shreveport in 1996, teaming with Erin McCarty. Erin is originally from Baton Rouge, and has been on the radio in Shreveport for nearly 30 years. Since 2013, they have hosted their morning news show from 6 a.m. until 9 a.m. on NewsRadio 710 KEEL.

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

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From the Chairman

Dear Fellow Republicans,

The new year is upon us and it's important to avoid "stinking thinking," as motivational speaker Zig Ziglar often said, which is when we allow ourselves to be gripped by negative thoughts and emotions, making us feel defeated, discouraged, and depressed. And "stinking thinking" can do that, indeed. Have you ever heard of the adage, "We are…what we think about?"

In fact, how we speak to ourselves can be self-motivating and encouraging, or self-defeating and pitying. This is generally when folks remind us that it's not what happens to us that matters – it's how we choose to respond. Of course, the Bible tells us this also, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7).

Now, of course, we've all asked a friend on the phone, or just about anyone in passing, "How are you?" Maybe it's the clerk at the grocery store, or the server at a restaurant. Some folks will say, "Not too bad, thanks." You know right away that these are the proverbial "glass is half-empty" type of folks – and you know it by the words they use. "Not too bad" implies that there is always something to worry about, in their mind, or nothing is ever quite right.

Well, what if they said, "I'm fantastic, thanks," instead? Likewise, you'd know this was the "glass is half-full" type of person – again, simply by the words they chose – whether they really were really doing fantastic, or not.

So as we begin 2017, and a new administration in Washington begins to take its place, our national mood, and the words we use to describe ourselves, as a country, will necessarily change, as well. President-elect Trump's "self-talk" is very different from President Obama's. Trump uses positive words like "great," "terrific," "fortune," "thriving," and "huge." He also says America will starting "winning again" and it will be "beyond anybody's expectations" and, "we are going to win so much, you will get tired of winning!"

He compliments those who are successful as "truly great leaders," he talks about the "tremendous potential" of our country. The day after he was elected, he reminded us all that "America will no longer settle for anything less than the best." He's seems to always characterize whatever he is doing, thinking, or working on as the "finest," "smartest," and "greatest". He talks about how we need the "smartest negotiators," or how he has built the "best hotels," or why he celebrates those who are excellent and "most highly sought after," and why we need to build "the strongest military that we've ever had."

By contrast, though, President Obama's favorite phrases over the past eight years seem to be those phrases that include the words "can't" and "don't," and in particular, the word "frustrating." He talked about how *there is real anger and "frustration" in our country. And he often says how* "frustrating" it is because he hasn't achieved everything in his administration, exactly the way he had planned. *He's been "frustrated" with Republicans, with the Tea Party, as well as anyone in small towns who* clings to "guns or religion or antipathy toward people who aren't like them."

Instead of "thriving" in your job, President Obama believes "at a certain point, you've made enough money." If you started a small business in your home, and grew it into a terrific company, he surprised you by saying, "You didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen." The truth is that how we talk to ourselves as a country is the loudest and most influential voice that we will hear. It can work for us, or against us, depending on the messages we allow. It can inspire us, or depress us, and the words we use make all the difference.

May this new year be filled with opportunities for you and your family in which the difficulties might not seem all that difficult – and may you always find the "words" to say so.

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).

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Louis R. Avallone

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Medallion Club, New Clubs
Join The Ranks!

The 2016 Medallion Club membership drive is coming to a close, and 2017 is just beginning! 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.

New Officers Elected for WRC

The WRC of Shreveport recently elected their new slate of officers: Danette Pugh, President; Amanda Downing, First Vice President; Gina Martinez, Second Vice President; Rita Humphrey, Treasurer; Hollie Fritz, Recording Secretary; and Andrea Remedies, Corresponding Secretary. Congratulations, ladies!

The Light's On, But No One's Home

For reasons not entirely known, Shreveport Councilwoman Stephanie Lynch has missed nearly half of the council's regular meetings and more than three-quarters of its agenda work sessions this year. She represents District F in west-central Shreveport, and has been present for 13 of the 24 meetings where the City Council votes on city business and has been absent 11 times, records show. She has missed 20 of 24 work sessions, where the council meets to discuss the next day's agenda, minutes show. In an interview with KEEL radio on Tuesday morning, she said none of her constituents have complained to her about her attendance record and added that her district has special needs that require direct communication with constituents more than attending meetings. "My constituents know me. I know them. I feel like I know what their needs are," Lynch said. "Could I have attended more meetings? Sure. Should I have? I think that is debatable. For me to be effective for the district I have, I need to spend the majority of my time working directly with the people (in my district). A lot of what needs to be done takes place outside the realm of the City Council meeting." What if our Representatives and Senators, in either the state legislature, or the U.S. Congress, would take the same attitude? Doesn't seem to make any sense.

Congratulations Mike Johnson!

Mike Johnson handily defeated Marshall Jones to take Louisiana's 4th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. "It's been a long road," Johnson said. "We're very grateful to the people for this opportunity, and we're going to work hard for all the people of the 4th District." Johnson won with 65 percent to Jones' 35 percent. Jones ran closest in Caddo Parish, where he got 48 percent of the vote. In contrast, Bossier Parish voted for Johnson by a 78-to-22-percent margin. His 30-point win was the largest margin of victory in 50 years for an open congressional seat in northwestern Louisiana.

Congratulations John Kennedy!

Louisiana voters chose Republican Treasurer John Kennedy to fill the state's open U.S. Senate seat, giving the GOP a 52-48 edge in the U.S. Senate now. Kennedy had tried unsuccessfully twice before to win a U.S. Senate seat, running first in 2004 as a Democrat and the most recent two times as a Republican. U.S. Reps. Charles Boustany, R-Lafayette, and John Fleming, R-Minden, endorsed Kennedy after their losses. New Orleans lawyer Caroline Fayard, the other top Democrat in the field, gave reluctant support to Campbell after a bruising primary battle.

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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 (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 are $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

January 3 - Robert J. Wright & Erin McCarty, GOP Luncheon

January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20 - Inauguration Day

January 19 - PEC Meeting

January 17 - PRWC dinner

January 18 - WRC luncheon

January 24 - 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

• 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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