



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



AUGUST 2017

EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE

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Missing the Forest for the Trees?

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Our guest speaker for this month's luncheon at 12 noon on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on E. 70th Street will be



Shreveport Mayor Ollie Tyler, where she will present the "State of the City" Address.

The Address will look back on her administration's accomplishments, as well as look forward to her remaining goals for the remainder of her term as Mayor. Many say Mayor Tyler is fighter.

Her administration has come under great criticism in recent months. From rising crime, to the failure of the city's computerized billing system that caused a loss of over \$1 million in revenue, to even being sued by Scott Pernici for defamation, the Mayor has had her share of

challenges, indeed. She proposed to roll forward millage rates from 17.290 mills to 17.650 mills, and the City Council agreed, raising nearly \$500,000 in taxpayer revenue, but her \$12/month garbage collection fee (which would have raised \$8 million in taxpayer revenue) didn't fare as well with the City Council, even though the Mayor explained later that Shreveport is one of the only cities of its size without a garbage fee.

And there's still the courting of the New Orleans Pelicans' "G" League team, and the prospect of building a \$25 million arena to house them.

While many say she her administration has shown progress with regard to roads and infrastructure, the safety of our citizens, threatened by rising crime, and our ability to attract new businesses to Shreveport, amidst ever increasing taxes, has dominated the headlines, and no doubt, will dominate the her "State of the City" Address on August 1.

So, join us Tuesday and let's visit. Bring a guest, especially someone who might not consider themselves "political". C'mon. It'll be fun. Reservations not required. Eating is \$13 and listening is free.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Fellow Republicans,

You've heard the saying, "Don't miss the forest for the trees," right? It's when someone is trying to make the point that you shouldn't get so caught up in the small details that you fail to understand the bigger picture. Well, in the case of this whole healthcare debacle in our country, and the goings on in Congress, the "bigger picture" doesn't mean a darn thing without the small details, and here's what I mean:

I know that many feel anyone proposing the repeal of Obamacare is a heartless so-and-so, or an insensitive you-know-what. But Obamacare is already repealed – for all intents and purposes – and it's collapsing under its own weight.

With or without any political party approval or bipartisan support, irrespective of the mainstream media's stance, and regardless of how many protests are organized, or members of Congress express their distaste for President Trump – Obamacare care is repealing itself.

The average premium on the individual market has soared by a staggering 75 percent just in the past four years. 31 million Americans can't afford the deductibles because of rising costs, and have flat-out stopped paying the premiums. We were supposed to have saved \$2,500 per year if Obamacare became law, but premium costs today are \$2,000 more today than they were just in 2013, and double-digit premium increases are expected in 2018.

The reason for this is that health insurers lost over \$2 billion dollars in 2016 and rather than expand coverage, these same insurers are pulling out of the exchanges set-up by Obamacare, altogether (and just so you know, two-thirds of the exchanges have already gone out of business, too). Ironically,

the exchanges were set-up so people could "shop" for insurance plans, often with the help of government subsidies.

But for 1 out of 3 Americans today, there is no "shopping" for insurance plans, unless your idea of shopping is like when Henry Ford famously told his customers they could have any color they wanted, as long as it was black. Similarly, with so many of health insurers gone, too many of us have only one choice of an insurer under Obamacare – it's "black" – and that means we have essentially no choice, at all.

If you're wondering if it could get any worse, the answer is yes. The number of insurers applying to serve the federal marketplace has dropped 38% for 2018, and it's now reported by the Kaiser Family Foundation that just over 25,000 people in Ohio, Indiana and Nevada are at risk of having no options in the exchanges next year.

And it's time for Republicans in Congress to have the courage to point these facts out, and vote, accordingly. Republicans have controlled the House of Representatives since 2011, the Senate since 2015, and the presidency since January. Republicans control 67 of 98 partisan state legislatures and 33 of 50 governors' mansions. It's time to do the job that voters elected Republicans to 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). Thanks, in advance, as always, for any support you can lend.

Louis R. Avallone

MEDALLION CLUB...THANK YOU!

Join The Ranks!

The 2017 Medallion Club membership drive is growing! 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: The Professional Republican Women of Caddo**, D.A. Simpson, Carroll Michaud, Austin Robertson. **Medallion:** Jack Daniel, Sylvia Norton, Jim and Martha Allen, and Olive Stuart. **Supporter:** Stanley Kolniak.

LONE REPUBLICAN TOSSES HAT IN RING

A single Republican, John Cunningham, has qualified in the race for the unexpired term of former Caddo Commission District 12 member Ken Epperson.

The rest of the field includes five Democrats, Darius Zamar Kimble, Joyce M. Lawrence, Fred Moss IV, Kay Proby-Waller and Whitney R. Williams. Epperson, who was re-elected to his third term in October 2015, resigned December 31, 2016. The term expires in January 2020. In January, the Commission selected Democrat Louis Johnson as interim District 12 representative. Johnson is running to fill the remainder of the term.

In an interview with *The Caddo Republican*, John Cunningham said, "With all of the issues facing Caddo Parish and all of the negative publicity that the Commission has been getting I felt the need to get into this race. There needs to be another conservative voice

on the Commission, one with a basis in honesty and integrity. He went on to say, "Let's get back to a government that represents the best interests of the people, instead of the other way around." The election is October 14th.

MONUMENT'S FUTURE UNKNOWN

The citizen advisory committee assigned to make a recommendation concerning the future of the Confederate monument in downtown Shreveport



again postponed voting on a resolution until August 10. *The Times* reported that the nine-member panel first postponed voting on a recommendation at its July 6 meeting. When a recommendation is adopted by the committee, it will be forwarded to the Caddo Parish Commission for consideration. The Confederate monument sits in front of the Caddo Parish Courthouse on Texas Street and was dedicated May 1, 1906. The marker features a soldier and busts of Confederate Generals Henry Watkins Allen, P.G.T. Beauregard, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

YOU WANT US TO STILL MAIL IT?

For many, many years, as faithful newsletter readers know, we have distributed *The Caddo Republican* by mailing a printed version and emailing a digital version. Please let us know if you wish to continue receiving a printed newsletter that is mailed to you. Otherwise, please add your name to our email subscribers' list by emailing us at louisavallone@caddogop.com, and we'll make sure you continue receiving the newsletter in your "inbox" every month.



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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

August 1 - Caddo GOP Luncheon

August 15 - PRWC Dinner

August 16 - WRC Luncheon

August 17 - PEC Meeting

August 22 - RWB Dinner

August 26 - National Dog Day

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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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
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| • Vice Chairman | Barry Rachal | 469-2277 | • Women's Republican Club of S'port | Danette Pugh | 225-362-1800 |
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