



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



APRIL 2017

EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE

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“In a democracy, the people get the government they deserve.”

THIS MONTH’S MEETING

Our guest speaker for this month’s luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, April 4, 2017**, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler**.

Secretary Schedler, is a resident of Mandeville, and was first appointed to the position in 2010 after serving as first assistant for three years. He was then elected by the people to serve a four-year term as secretary of state in 2011, and he was re-elected in 2015.

He has worked diligently to streamline and update the processes within the Secretary of State’s Office, and this has resulted in a more efficient and effective experience for taxpayers, indeed. His priorities include protecting and defending the integrity of every election, honoring and preserving the history and symbols of our state, and assisting and supporting small businesses in filing their registration forms.

He has reduced the number of special elections in Louisiana, to preserve limited tax dollars. He’s



improved voter registration and participation through technology — we were the second state in the country to implement online registration. And he’s enhanced services in the Commercial Division, especially with regard to establishing a one-stop shop for all statewide corporate transactions.

Schedler was born and raised in New Orleans. He is married to his wife of 40-plus years, and they have three married daughters and four grandchildren.

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,

"Incompetence" is a 4-letter word. And for those of us who are totally fed up with "incompetence" in our elected officials, we probably sound like the most foul-mouthed, cussing sailor you have ever met. And you know what? It's just gotten to that point.

There's simply no polite way to say it anymore. After all, if we keep doing what we're doing, we'll keep getting what we're getting, and frankly, and I don't want any more of "it."

From the Caddo Parish Superintendent of Schools, to the Mayor of Shreveport, to the "accidental" Governor of Louisiana, they tell us how much they are "working for us," that "now is our time," and that "our children deserve better". They tell us how our streets will be safer, our schools will be better, garbage pick-up will be on time, our water bills will be accurate, and our future will be brighter, all because of their ideas.

But their ideas aren't enough — good ideas don't have wings. They don't just take-off. They require leadership abilities to bring them into fruition, and far too many of our elected officials simply don't have it in them.

They don't have the temperament needed to concentrate on large-scale, organizational change. They aren't secure enough in their own beliefs to deliver the changes needed because they capitulate when faced with almost any resistance to those changes.

Look, leadership is not for everyone. But even bad ideas, or good ones, are rarely the reason that a leader fails. According to Fortune magazine, 70% of CEOs fail because they cannot execute. They don't get things done, they are indecisive, and don't follow-thru. And yet, don't we keep electing these same type of folks, to lead our communities and nation, year after year?

As voters, we must be in the "people" business. As Jack Welch, the former Chairman and CEO of

General Electric said, "We spend all our time on people," he says. "The day we screw up the people thing, this company is over."

The exact same is true for our government, from City Hall to the White House and I'll say it — we've screwed up the people thing. Just look at the "ideas" being floated around for raising taxes in Baton Rouge right now.

So, yes, if you want to use a 4-letter word like "incompetence" to describe many of our elected officials, please cuss away with that word, every chance you get. But do something else, please: get involved in our Party and take your good ideas and make them happen. It's not only possible, but it's necessary. And you can do it. We've got your back.

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

CADDO GOP ELECTS 2017 OFFICERS

The Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee recently convened and elected their officers for 2017-2018. Those elected were **Louis R. Avallone**, Chairman; **Barry Rachal**, Vice-Chairman; **Nancy Adcock**, Secretary; and **Micheal Collins**, Treasurer. Congratulations to each of these veteran Party leaders for serving their community, with both their time and talents, for the conservative cause. "We have such a deep level of experience on the PEC with every member," says Chairman Louis R. Avallone, "and therefore there is a great opportunity for mentorship here, for anyone interested in leadership within the Party, even if they might never have been involved in politics before." If you would like to offer your time and talents for the conservative principles you hold dear, please contact Louis R. Avallone at 318-841-1277, or louisavallone@caddogop.com, anytime.

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:** D.A. Simpson, Carroll Michaud, Austin Robertson, and **Jim and Martha Allen. Medallion:** Jack Daniel, Sylvia Norton, and **Olive Stuart. Supporter:** Stanley Kolniak.

**CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
RENEWALS
& REDEDICATION
APRIL 29 2017**

CADDO PARISH TAX RENEWAL - 4/29

On Saturday, April 29, Caddo Parish voters will go to the polls to decide on 4 millage tax renewals and a sales tax rededication for the operations of Parish departments. The millages are for parks and recreation, public health, juvenile court and detention, courthouse and parish buildings, and the sales tax rededication (please note that only residents outside the city limits of Shreveport and city limits of Vivian will vote on the sales tax rededication on Election Day). According to the Parish, they are renewing these millages now because "it is best to call an election no later than one year before a millage expires" and if it wasn't done now, the Parish would have to call 2 additional elections for 2 of these millages that expire in 2020 and 2021 (the Parish estimates they would save \$400,000 in costs that would be associated with calling additional elections, in lieu of consolidating those early renewals into the upcoming April 29 election). As with all of these

millages and sales tax rededication, the Parish notes that these are not increases in taxes. (Editor's note: This is not much consolation, insofar as the population of Caddo Parish dropped between July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016 by -2,554 residents, effectively increasing the tax burden upon a smaller population of taxpayers, but that's another story.) Early voting runs from Saturday, April 15 through Saturday, April 22.



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.

TOO MANY DON'T READ ANYMORE

We've become a nation of scanners – not readers. No question. We screen every incoming email message or Facebook post for relevance and importance, and if we decide to read it, we



usually stop reading once we think we've gotten the gist, and then we move on, without going any deeper. Considering that more than one-half of the people in our country are only consuming their news via headlines, and from not much else, how can they ever be informed on complex issues, if most don't read past the headlines? How long can our country remain strong when over one-half of the population cannot read at the same grade level as the other half?

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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**.

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

April 4 - Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler
GOP Luncheon

April 16 - Easter

April 18 - PRWC Dinner

April 19 - WRC Luncheon

April 21 - PEC Meeting

April 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.

OFFICERS AND KEY OFFICIALS

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Chairman | Louis R. Avallone | 841-1277 | • Professional Republican Women | Danette Pugh | 225-362-1800 |
| • 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 |