



# THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



DECEMBER 2017

EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE

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## *Mayor's Race 2018: Competence, Character? Or color? Why Is This Even A Question?*

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Our guest speaker for this month's luncheon at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **Caddo Parish Sheriff, Steve Prator**.

From the Governor's plan for the early release of prisoners, to rising crime in the City of Shreveport, to the fencing in the Caddo Parish Courthouse, as well as the upcoming 2018 mayoral race in Shreveport, not to mention the national attention his comments about "good" prisoners has drawn, there's a lot to talk about with this longtime, public servant, Steve Prator.

As many of you know, Steve Prator was born in Tennessee and moved to Caddo Parish at the age of seven. He attended North Highlands Elementary, Hamilton Terrace Junior High, C.E. Byrd High School, and Northwood High School, where he graduated in 1969. He attended LSU in Baton Rouge for three years and received a bachelor's degree from LSU-Shreveport.

In 1973, Steve began what would become a life-long career in public service. At age 21, he joined the Shreveport Police



Department as a patrolman. In 1991, while just a sergeant, Steve was selected from a field of 42 to be the city's next Police Chief.

Over the next eight years, Steve successfully tackled crime and managed a \$60 million budget. He retired from the Shreveport Police Department in 1999 to run for Sheriff and won that election receiving 70 percent of the vote. He's held this post since then.

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

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Fellow Republicans,

In 2016, Shreveport reported 42 homicides to the FBI and reported 46 homicides, including justifiable killings, on the city's 2016 Annual Crime Report.

The 2016 and 2017 homicide rates are double what the city recorded in 2015 and the highest since 2003. There is no clear reason for the increase in homicides over the past 2 years, according to Shreveport Police Chief Alan Crump, who says also that it's hard to predict crimes that often are motivated by relationships, Crump added.

Nevertheless, many say that new leadership, in the Mayor's office, is needed to address not only the crime, but what many have identified as corrupt practices and a lack of transparency with the voters at City Hall.

If new leadership is needed, then, logically, one would look to the candidates qualifications, their experience, their character, etc. If that's true, then why does nearly every conversation among Shreveport residents about the Mayor's race include some reference to the color of the prospective candidates' skin? It's ridiculous.

I mean, when you dial 911, you only want to know that an ambulance is coming. Or that a police officer or firefighter is responding to your emergency. It doesn't matter if they are black or white because it's not about the color of one's skin, it's about who can get the job done.

Unfortunately, that's not the focus for most Shreveport voters, even though they are dialing 911 for new leadership. And make no mistake, this is an emergency. Millions of dollars in infrastructure spending is needed, from street repairs to sewer and water improvements, to dealing with rising crime, as mentioned above.

Electing our mayor, though, must be about the content of their character, first and last. Martin

Luther King, Jr. dreamed of a day where his children will "one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

To focus elsewhere is an abandonment of King's dream, and an indication that we have unwittingly aligned ourselves with those who choose color over character and charm over competence. Remember, our community's success stops where our character stops.

We can never rise above the limitations of our character, and that's why the mayor's skin color should be meaningless, if we are focused on which of the candidates is most competent. Which ones will show up every day, and keep improving? Which ones will follow through with excellence, and accomplish more than expected? Which ones will inspire others and create a culture of competence in our city government?

This obsession over skin color in our mayor's race is yet another blow to the wedge that has often divided Shreveport. Perhaps the bottom line is that if we can't move past color, we really won't ever attract the best and brightest candidates, and therefore won't ever engage in the type of discussion that moves a community forward. After all, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "the time is always right to do what's right." And this Mayor's race is the time to do what's right — choose character.

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. **Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!**

*Louis R. Avallone*

## MEDALLION CLUB...THANK YOU!

### *Join The Ranks!*

The 2017 Medallion Club membership drive is growing to a close, and 2018 will begin! 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, Harold Coates, D.A. Simpson, Carroll Michaud, Austin Robertson; Barrow Peacock. **Medallion:** Jack Daniel, Sylvia Norton, Jim and Martha Allen. Olive Stuart, and Steve Riall. **Supporter:** Stanley Kolniak and the **Women's Republican Club of Shreveport.**

## INEQUALITY AND FREE ENTERPRISE

*by Barry Rachal*

Free enterprise/capitalism is true equality and is as old as society itself. Would it be fair for you to work 50 hours per week and me work 30 hours per week, but each of us get paid for 40 hours? That is the definition of inequality, and is how socialism works. Can you imagine all the employees that worked for General Motors, Walmart, or the business that you work for, taking the hours you worked and giving them to someone else that did not work as much as you did, so that each of you received the same/equal paycheck? If that happened to you, I guarantee that you would say that is unequal. If you feel that is unequal, then you are a believer and practice free enterprise/capitalism. When societies were agricultural based, individuals earned based on what they could produce themselves. If they produced more than they

needed, they traded/bartered/sold their goods for other goods. He who could gather more firewood had a warmer home. The better hunters had more food for their family. Those that produced more than they needed could provide for those that did not in exchange for other goods or services. The result was those that could not produce as well as another could or would work for those that could produce a particular need.

When someone discovered a better way to produce, a better mousetrap, they reaped the reward of their discovery. The larger the benefit to society, the larger the reward/profit for those that produced. Society also reaps benefits.

In summary, if inequality of rewards/benefits/profit is an issue, then it should also be an issue for the inequality for the amount of work/effort/production that an individual puts forth. If you choose to work and give what you have earned to someone else, that is your choice and humanity at its best. If you choose to work and the government determines to take what you have earned and give it to someone that hasn't worked, that is socialism and encourages laziness. If you believe it is right for you to keep what you have earned, then I would like to congratulate and welcome you to the conservative belief that Free Enterprise/Capitalism is the truest example of equality.

## A CADDO GOP "CALL TO ACTION"

If you feel our government has strayed too far from our Founding Fathers' principles, then the Caddo Republican GOP needs your help. Proverbs 3:27 states: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act." We believe it is in our power to act, and we hope you agree our efforts deserve whatever you can contribute. Please consider contributing right here at home. 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.

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Shreveport, LA 71105

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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](mailto: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](mailto:PRWC1989@gmail.com) or contact Pam Gutekunst

([pamgutekunst@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

- Dec. 5 - Caddo GOP Luncheon
- Dec. 14 - PEC Meeting  
New time and place  
12 noon, Iberia Bank  
6985 Fern Loop
- Dec. 19 - PRWC Dinner  
U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson
- Dec. 20 - WRC Luncheon
- Dec. 25 - Christmas
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

**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](mailto: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     | 869-2975     |
| • Vice Chairman                   | Barry Rachal      | 469-2277 | • Women's Republican Club of S'port | Danette Pugh     | 225-362-1800 |
| • 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     |