



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



APRIL 2018

EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE

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The Governor of “You Figure It Out, waaa...”

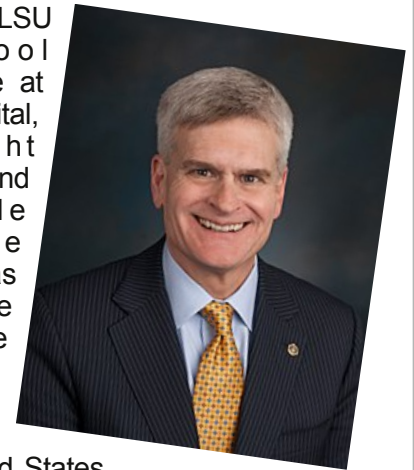
THIS MONTH’S MEETING

Speaker for this month’s luncheon at **12 noon** on **Tuesday, April 3, 2018** at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy**.

Bill is married to Dr. Laura Cassidy and they have three children. They attend church at the Chapel on the Campus. Bill grew up in Baton Rouge and attended LSU for undergraduate and Medical School.

For nearly three decades, Bill has provided care for uninsured and underinsured patients in Louisiana’s charity hospital system. During this time, he co-founded the Greater Baton Rouge Community Clinic, a clinic providing free dental and health care to the working uninsured. Bill also created a private-public partnership to vaccinate 36,000 greater Baton Rouge area children against Hepatitis B at no cost to the schools or parents. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Bill led a group of health care volunteers to convert an abandoned K-Mart building into an emergency health care facility, providing basic health care to hurricane evacuees.

In 1990, Bill joined LSU Medical School following his tenure at Earl K. Long hospital, where he taught medical students and residents while treating the uninsured. Bill was elected to the Louisiana State Senate in 2006.



In 2008, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent Louisiana’s Sixth Congressional District. In the US House, Bill served on the Energy and Commerce Committee and supported a conservative agenda.

Bill was elected to the United States Senate in December, 2014. He serves on the Energy and Natural Resources, Health Education Labor & Pensions (HELP), Finance, Veterans’ Affairs and Joint Economic Committees.

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Fellow Republicans,

Perhaps not since 1989, when the number one song that year was Milli Vanilli's "Blame it on the Rain," has there been a more grand fraud perpetrated upon the people of Louisiana than the incessant and child-like reasoning of Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards. He blames anyone, everyone and anything – but himself – for EVERYTHING.

From our state's economic woes to our criminal justice system, he has plenty of blame to go around. We know that one of the mechanisms of denial is blaming others for our problems, and with the latest "done nothing" special legislative session called by the governor – which cost the taxpayers a million dollars – there's more blame than ever being passed around. But most folks realize it for what it is – a lack of leadership from the governor.

"He's trying to almost circumvent his leadership role by getting everyone else to tell him what to do," says Rep. Cameron Henry, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, but "that's not how governors work." In fact, that's not how effective leadership works, anywhere, whether you are an elected official, a department manager or head of your household.

That's because none of us can improve our situation unless we accept responsibility for ourselves and reject the idea that someone else, or something else, is to blame for our circumstances in life – whether it happened last week, or from when you were a child, or even 150 years ago.

But that hasn't stopped John Bel Edwards.

He has repeatedly blamed Bobby Jindal for the state's nearly \$1 billion "shortfall" and other budget problems, calling Jindal "the most irresponsible governor who has ever governed Louisiana." When he went before Congress last April, he blamed partisan politics for the tough questioning he received during a congressional hearing examining the response to 2016's historic flooding. He said, "I can only attribute it to politics, but, quite frankly, I wasn't surprised."

Then, last summer, the governor continued his blame campaign and blamed House Republicans for not surrendering to his efforts to raise higher and higher taxes, even though Louisiana already has the highest sales taxes in the country, and

now he's blaming the energy industry for eroding our state's coastline. And now he's blamed the House for the special session failure that wasn't "special" at all, saying, "Simply put, the failure of this special session is the result of a total lack of leadership and action in the House of Representatives – a spectacular failure of leadership."

But even if this were so, wasn't he elected to lead our state? In the Bible, it says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish," and we are indeed perishing. Where is his vision, which he laments is so very absent within everyone else?

You see, none of us can lead – and neither can John Bel Edwards – when we resort to blame and won't accept responsibility for our circumstances. And while blaming others makes some people feel better about themselves, in the end they are simply avoiding honest communication and accountability for their own actions.

The same is true for our local politics, as well.

So why do we keep electing folks who know only how to blame the way? It's a question in this mid-term election year, especially with the Shreveport Mayor's race ahead, that we must know the answer to, or else we'll only have ourselves to blame.

In closing, please help us to continue doing our work in Caddo Parish, and spreading our conservative message, by 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://new.caddogop.com/>.

Thanks, in advance, as always, for any support you can lend.

Louis R. Avallone

NEW LAGOP CHAIR TO SPEAK

On May 1, 2018, the new Louisiana GOP ("LAGOP") Chairman, **Louis Gurvich**, and the new LAGOP Executive Director, **Andrew Bautsch**, will be in Shreveport, as Chairman Gurvich will be our May luncheon's featured speaker. Please make plans to welcome Chairman Gurvich to Caddo Parish, and to hear his vision for the LAGOP.



BUDGETING 101: IT'S ABOUT "TIME"

Under paragraph 4.18, of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Shreveport, it says that, "...the total of estimated expenditures in no budget shall exceed the total estimated receipts therein, taking into account any estimated fund balance or deficit from the current fiscal year." And yet, the current City budget expenditures DO exceed the total estimated receipts because there is over \$11 million in tax revenue that expired in 2017, and should *not* be counted as any portion of the City's "estimated receipts." Some say that voters are expected to pass these \$11 million in taxes when they go to the polls on April 28, 2018, and therefore the Mayor has complied with the Code of Ordinances' requirement, because the likelihood of the taxes passing on April 28 translates into "estimated receipts" that can be used to "balance" the City's budget. Mayor Tyler decided, for some reason, to allow these taxes to expire in 2017. While being interviewed by *The Times* in February, 2018, she explained, "In 2017 the taxes expired and we made the decision to only go out for the taxes when necessary and not before." But isn't it necessary to "go out for the taxes" before they disappear, altogether?

By allowing these taxes to expire in 2017, but budgeting expenditures for City services based upon this non-existent revenue, the citizens of Shreveport are in a "no win" situation. They either agree to levy the \$11 million in taxes on April 28, or they would seemingly be cutting City services by reducing expenditures (unless the Mayor knows of \$11 million in unnecessary and wasteful spending that is already in the City's budget). And if the taxes fail, the City says it will re-budget for the lost revenue — but why didn't they do that in the first place? And why would the Mayor place her citizens in such a spot? Tyler has announced, however, that she will seek a second term as mayor and that any formal announcement will be after the April 28 tax vote. Tyler's 2017 candidate's report indicates a fund balance at year end of \$33,386.62.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Last October, Caddo Commissioners Jerald Bowman, Lynn Cawthorne, Stormy Gage-Watts, Steven Jackson, Louis Johnson, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Matthew Linn all voted to remove the Confederate monument from the Caddo Courthouse grounds. The Shreveport chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy is fighting removal of the monument and their lawyers sued the Commissioners, planning to question Jackson, Johnson, Gage-Watts, and Linn about their votes in depositions. The Commissioners argued said they are legally immune from having to testify about the motives for their votes and a federal judge has agreed they don't have to answer any questions.

CADDO PEC ELECTS 2018-19 OFFICERS

The Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee ("PEC") met on March 15, 2018 for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting and elected its 2018-19 officers. The new officers are: **Louis R. Avallone**, Chairman; **Barry Rachal**, Vice-Chairman; **Nancy Adcock**, Secretary; and **Micheal Collins**, Treasurer. Thank you to these volunteers who serve our local Party, mostly "behind the scenes," and to all the members of the PEC for their dedication in making our community better through better leadership at every level.

MEDALLION CLUB...THANK YOU!

Join The Ranks!

The 2018 Medallion Club membership drive 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. Gold Medallion: **Carroll Michaud, Austin Robertson, Harold and Margaret Coates, Sylvia Norton. Medallion Club:** Mike Thibodaux, **Jack Daniel, Supporter:** **Stanley Kolniak.****

THANK YOU!

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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 1 - Easter
- April 3 - Caddo GOP luncheon
- April 17 - Federal Income Taxes
- April 19 - Caddo PEC Meeting
- April 17 - PRWC Dinner
- April 18 - WRC Luncheon
- April 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

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| • 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 | • Republican Women of Bossier | Ali Feaster-Smith | 716-7532 |