



# THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



APRIL 2015

EDITOR: LOUIS R. AVALLONE

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## *Legislators Getting Ready To Stake Out Their Piece Of The Pie in 2015 Session*

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Speaker for this month's luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, April 7, 2015** at the Wyndam Garden Hotel (formerly the Clarion Hotel) on E. 70th Street will be **State Senator Barrow Peacock, Representative Alan Seabaugh, and Representative Richie Burford**, who will be discussing the upcoming legislative session and the financial challenges, in particular, facing our state, from LSUMC to our local universities.

Recent reports indicate the budget will get center-ring attention when the Legislature convenes for its annual session on April 13. Long-time observers say the state's financial situation hasn't been in such bad shape since the oil bust of the late 1980s, although they are quick to note the situation then was even worse because Louisiana's budget was more dependent on oil and gas revenue. The projected \$1.6 billion deficit—about 20% of the state's

general fund—leaves legislators facing tough choices on spending and cutting.

For every dollar the price of oil per barrel drops, Louisiana loses about \$11 million in state revenue. The easy options for a fix were used up in preceding years. Making matters politically worse across party lines, the budget-balancing effort takes place in a year when many of the 105 House members and 39 senators are running for re-election or another elected office. Voters who've had to deal with their own budget crises after the Great Recession will be closely watching what legislators do with their tax dollars.

Senator Peacock will be running for re-election of his Senate seat this year, as will Representative Burford, who is running for Senator Buffington's seat (Senate District 38), as she was term-limited.

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

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Fellow Republicans,

If there was ever a good example of how an uninformed electorate got it completely wrong, it would be when Jesus and Barabbas stood before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, and a large crowd of people.

Despite Pontius Pilate looking for the facts to support the charges against Jesus, and asking the crowd for any evidence whatsoever of his crime, the crowd had made up its mind – without the facts. Their loud shouting to crucify him was based on “some things they had heard” from others, and as a result, they got it wrong.

So, when there’s talk in Washington, D.C. by the President about a Constitutional amendment to make it mandatory for everyone in the “crowd” to vote, under the penalty of law, it warrants a closer look.

The President said last month that mandatory voting would place young, lower-income, immigrant, and minority groups into the polls, and then he went on to imply somehow that young, lower-income, immigrant, and minority groups cannot get into the polls now.

Of course, that’s not entirely true – and that’s putting it politely. Consider that black voters in 2012 voted at a higher rate than whites for the first time in American history, according to a Census Bureau report. In 2008, 5.8 million more minorities “somehow” got into the polls, compared to 2004 minority voting, and then in 2008, fewer whites went to the polls by almost 1.2 million.

If you’re scratching your head right about now, like Pontius Pilate standing before the “crowd” of folks shouting “crucify him”, and you’re wanting to make sense of this talk of mandatory voting, you’re not alone.

Along with the privilege to vote comes the responsibility to become informed, as much as possible, regarding the issues being voted upon and the candidates being elected. For example, if you were being wheeled into the emergency room, would you choose a doctor whose practice of medicine was based on what he or she had “heard from others” or whatever feels right? Or would you choose a doctor who treats patients based on scientific methods, drawing from the best available evidence? The first doctor means well, of course, but isn’t helping a bit, and neither is the uninformed voter pulling the lever in the voting machine based on what they “heard from others”.

Of course, we teach our children not to follow the “crowd”, and maybe that’s because of stories like that of Pontius Pilate and Jesus, where the “crowd” got it so very wrong. But there’s something to that lesson – the “crowd” was uninformed and unprepared, and no law could have changed that 2,000 years ago, nor can it today, for it takes nothing to join the crowd, but it takes everything to stand alone and honor your civic duty – even if that means not voting.

In closing, and as always, I’d like to ask you to consider making a contribution to the Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee, or to volunteer your time. Your support helps maintain a local office, publish a monthly newsletter, and conduct important Party-building activities aimed to recruit, as well as support Party members throughout the parish. Contributions of any amount, from \$50 to \$100 to \$200 (and higher) 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).

Very truly yours,

*Louis R. Avallone*

## CADDO PEC OFFICERS ELECTED

The Parish Executive Committee met on March 19, with the following **present**: Jim Allen, Louis R. Avallone, Harold Coates, Steve Gibson, Betsy Malone, Barry Rachal, and Nancy Adcock. **Absent**: Creighton Leight and Micheal Collins. The PEC elections were held and resulted in the re-election of Louis R. Avallone as Chairman, Barry Rachal as Vice-Chairman, Nancy Adcock, as Secretary, and Micheal Collins, as Treasurer.



## MEDALLION CLUB (IS GROWING)

*Now, Contribute By Credit Card Too*

The 2015 Medallion Club membership drive well underway. 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:** Gary Moore, Austin G.

*Thank You*

Robertson, Jr., Dee Simpson, Jim and Martha Allen, Harold and Margaret Coates, **B.L. "Buddy" Shaw, G.A. Frierson, II, Maudie M. Lawson; Medallion: Jack Daniel, Elmo Norton, George Penfield, Oliver Jenkins, Max Edwards, Barrow Peacock, Mike Thibodeaux, Steve C. Gibson, and Women's Republican Club of Shreveport. Supporter:** Olive Stuart, Blanca Collins, and **Stanley Kolniak.**

## DEMOGRAPHICS DILEMMA

Last month's release of data from the U. S. Census Bureau's official population estimates shows Caddo Parish's population dropping again over the past data year. Caddo population as of July 1, 2014, stood at 252,603, down from 255,164 one year earlier, a loss of -2,561 residents, or -1.0%. Compared to the 2010 Census headcount, Caddo has lost -2,366 residents, from 254,969 on April 1, 2010 to the new total of 252,603 for July 1, 2014. Caddo population had risen during the period mid-year 2010 to mid-year 2012, up to 257,328, but in the two years since, as Haynesville Shale activity dropped and the General Motors plant closed, the population has dropped -4,725, or -1.9%. Louisiana's population has increased +2.6% since the 2010 Census, an increase notably attributable to foreign in-migrants.

## "PAJAMAS" COMMISH INDICTED

District 3 Caddo Parish Commissioner Michael Williams, also known for promoting an ordinance outlawing the wearing of pajamas in public places, has been indicted on federal fraud charges. Williams is accused of defrauding the commission and stealing from a nonprofit meant to help at-risk youth. He faces 12 counts of wire fraud. He's accused of having a debit card issued to nonprofit SWAG Nation, then using the card to withdraw money from ATMs after the Caddo Parish Commission provided money to the organization.



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1941-C East 70th Street  
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 at \$12.00.

The **Republican Women of Bossier (RWB)** meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Azalea Room of Good Eats, 2171 Airline Drive. "Meet and Greet" starts at 5:30 p.m. Meals are \$20.00. Listening is free. Call Robin Rue-Graves (965-5001), [robinsbirdnest@yahoo.com](mailto:robinsbirdnest@yahoo.com) for reservations (RSVPs, please, by Wednesdays prior to meeting). Men are welcome as associates.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 7** - GOP Luncheon, North La. Legislative Delegation
- April 16** - PEC meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- April 21** - PRWC dinner
- April 22** - WRC luncheon
- April 28** - 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](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      | Kerry Kimler             |
| • Vice Chairman                   | Barry Rachal      | 469-2277 | • Women's Republican Club of S'port  | Linda Brooks 294-3775    |
| • Treasurer                       | Micheal Collins   | 207-0405 | • Candidate Assistance Chairman      | Mike Thibodeaux 393-2996 |
| • Secretary                       | Nancy Adcock      | 458-1637 | • Parliamentarian/Publicity Chairman | 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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