



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



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Editor: Louis R. Avallone

January 2014

This Month's Meeting

2014



Speaker for this month's luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, January 7** at the Clarion Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **State Superintendent of Education John White**. Superintendent White began his career in education as an English teacher at William L. Dickinson High School in Jersey City, New Jersey.

He then went to work for Teach for America (TFA) in New Jersey, where he coached and mentored new TFA recruits before becoming Executive Director of TFA-Chicago two years later. Under White's leadership, TFA-Chicago doubled the number of teachers recruited to work in South Side and West Side schools, and the organization established one of the most innovative principal training programs in the country, matching successful TFA teachers with Harvard University and the Chicago Public School System for training as principals. Sixty TFA graduates are currently working as principals in Chicago schools.

In 2006, John White was asked by New York City Chancellor Joel Klein to join the senior leadership team of the largest school district in the country. There, White served as Deputy Chancellor of

Talent, Labor and Innovation, leading negotiations for the city with the United Federation of Teachers, implementing a citywide teacher effectiveness system, and negotiating New York State's bid for Race to the Top (R2T). Additionally, as Deputy Chancellor, White launched and led the Innovation Zone, a network of 100 21st Century schools that use technology to personalize student learning.

Prior to being named Deputy Chancellor, White served as Chief Executive Officer for NYC's Portfolio Division, leading the city's efforts to turn around more than 100 failing schools and start 500 new charter and district schools.

White became Superintendent of the Louisiana Recovery School District in May 2011, where he launched "12 commitments to the city of New Orleans." The district made good on each commitment, overhauling the remaining failing schools in the RSD, establishing a unified enrollment system, and expanding the New Orleans school construction program to ensure that every school building in Orleans Parish would be rebuilt or renovated.

White was named State Superintendent of education in January of 2012 and soon thereafter launched Louisiana Believes, the state's plan to put every child on the path toward college and career.

White is a 2010 member of the Broad Superintendents Academy. He received a B.A. in English with distinction from the University of Virginia and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University.

Reservations not required. Eating is \$13 and there is no cost to listen. Parking is free.

From the Chairman

Eleven year old Madison Root of Portland, OR is one of the most amazing examples of the American spirit that made this country great. She wanted to help her father pay for her braces by selling mistletoe over the holidays, but instead found herself embroiled in city bureaucracy. On a Saturday in November, Madison went to the downtown market to sell fresh mistletoe she cut and wrapped from her uncle's nearby farm. However, a private security guard hired by the Saturday Market approached and told her to stop selling the mistletoe, citing city rules that ban conducting business at the park without a proper permit.

The guard reportedly told Madison she could set up shop outside the boundaries of the park. "The guard told her she can beg if she wanted but she can't sell the mistletoe in the park." In a Fox News interview she stated that she did not want to beg for anything but just wanted to sell something.



Her father, Ashton Root, stated, "The guard told her she can beg if she wanted but she can't sell the mistletoe." He went on to say that his daughter "does not want to encourage begging and wants people to earn their living. She is so keen on high work ethic." Madison confirmed this, "I don't want to beg! I would rather work for something than beg. I didn't think I'd have a problem because some people are begging for money and other people are selling stuff, this is a public place. I just want to sell mistletoe to make money."

The young entrepreneur also seemed confused that vendors could openly sell pot (*marijuana*) while her mistletoe business was shut down: "There are people next to me that have big signs that say 'Got Pot?' They're raising money for pot!"

Since the story broke, Madison's father said "mistletoe orders mushroomed. McKinzei Farms, one of the biggest Christmas tree farms in the area, made a \$1,000 donation to Madison's braces."

The entrepreneurial spirit in this brave young lady just may be who we are looking for as a role model



to charge up the rest of this nation's younger generation.

Harold

Note: If you know anyone who is not currently a Republican but might be interested in changing parties, we have a simple change card prepared and ready for mailing. Please call the Caddo Republican office number 318-797-1777 or email hcoates@haroldcoates.net.

Medallion Club

The 2014 Medallion Club membership drive will begin shortly. 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 level is \$100-\$199 and Supporter level membership is up to \$99. Checks made payable to the Caddo Republican Party can be sent to the Headquarter's Office at 1941-C East 70th Street, Shreveport, 71105. Contributions are not tax deductible.



Gold Medallion Members: Jim and Martha Allen, Max Edwards, G.A. Frierson II, William Golden, M.B. Lawson, Jean Laster, Jeff Loftin, PRWC, Olive G. Stuart, and Thelma Woods. **Medallion Members:** Harold and Margaret Coates, Jack Daniel, Steve Gibson, Marshall Graham, Martha E. Jackson, Creighton Light, Elmo Norton, Sybil Patton, George Penfield, Barrow Peacock, Steve Riall, Ted Roberts, and B.L. "Buddy" Shaw.

PEC-n-Order

The Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee met December 19th. **Attending:** Nancy Adcock, Jim Allen, Harold Coates, Micheal Collins, Steve Gibson, Alan Koloc, Creighton Light, Betsy Malone. **Absent:** Louis R. Avallone, Neil Carlisle, and Barry Rachal. The meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Picadilly Cafeteria in St. Vincent Mall.

PRWC November Meeting

The Professional Republican Women of Caddo regularly meet on the 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Savoie's Catering Place at 2441 East 70th Street.

Meal price is \$12.00. For reservations, email PRWC1989@gmail.com or contact Pam Gutekunst at pamgutekunst@bellsouth.net, or phone 797-0802.

Bossier Republican Women Meeting

Regular meetings are held on the 4th Tuesdays of every month at the Azalea Room of Good Eats, 2177 Airline Drive. "Meet and Greet" starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Reservations are to be made to Babb Dockall at 318-949-8558, or traveller38@suddenlink.net. If you don't plan to eat, there is no charge to come and listen. Men are welcome to attend and join as associates.

WRC Meeting

The Women's Republican Club meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the East Ridge Country Club. Price of the meal is \$18. Call 795-0870 or email RSVP.WRC@gmail.com.

Reflecting on the Christmas Season

By Louis R. Avallone

"I am so sick of myopic, self-centered, 'persecuted' Christians who complain about a fake war on Christmas by the people in this country who don't happen to share their particular views," a recent letter to the editor of the *Dallas Morning News* started out.

The letter continued, "So please, Christians ('persecuted' Christians, not the kind who actually do unto others as you would have others treat you), open your eyes and see that the U.S. is not a Christian nation but a giant melting pot of many different cultures and beliefs. The world does not revolve around you."

Maybe this describes your opinion of the matter, as well. Maybe you feel Jon Stewart from the Daily Show said it best when he said, "You've confused a war on Christianity with not always getting everything you want." Or, on the other hand, maybe you would have shouted "Amen" to Ronald Reagan when he said, "Christmas can be celebrated in the school room with pine trees, tinsel and reindeers, but there must be no mention of the man whose birthday is being celebrated. One wonders how a teacher would answer if a student asked why it was called Christmas."

But whichever pew you sit in, the religious celebration of Christmas faces trivialization every year, and this is what many characterize as the "war on Christmas". It draws attention (and controversy) whenever folks demand that a Christmas tree be referred to as a "holiday tree", or when seemingly benign Christmas carols cannot be sung in our schools, or whenever Christmas decorations are not permitted to be displayed in our public squares, for fear of offending others.

Just a few years ago, for example, even the White House was not planning to display the Nativity scene, which has been a longtime East Room tradition. Instead, according to the White House's former social secretary Desiree Rogers, the "Obamas were planning a nonreligious Christmas."

But good grief. Does hearing, "Peace on earth, good will toward men" really sound oppressive? Does "Joy to the world" bring such despair to those who hear it? Is there such a scarcity of darkness in the world that a few twinkling lights might not brighten one's day, or where the innocence of Santa Claus might not teach us all that it is in giving, that we receive?

Poll after poll has shown that the fear of offending others with "Merry Christmas" is misplaced. According to the polling firm Zogby, 95% of Americans are NOT offended when they hear "Merry Christmas". In fact, even 62% of non-Christians (including Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists) all celebrate Christmas, in some form or fashion, plus more than half of self-identified atheists and almost 90% of agnostics.

So, what's the commotion about the "war" on Christmas? It's really about a larger "war" on Christianity, and not just here at home, but around the world where Christians are persecuted, and even killed. It is estimated that 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today are directed against Christians. Even Pope Francis recently pointed out, "So many Christians in the world are suffering," and "giving their lives" for their Christian faith.

You see, history teaches us that imperceptible changes can have a lasting, irreparable effect on society. Dictators understand the effectiveness of eroding freedoms by imperceptible reductions. As Adolph Hitler wrote in his book, *Mein Kampf*, "the people will not see those rights and freedoms being removed until past the point at which these changes cannot be reversed."

And it is this feared, imperceptible erosion to the freedom of religion, and persecution for one's beliefs, that concern folks so much that they characterize the trivialization of Christmas as a "war". Those that mock their angst, or making fun of their concerns, simply aren't digging down deep enough to see what's really going on.

Yes, the true Christmas spirit still comes from within, and it is not just a time of year, but a state of mind. I just pray now that Charles Schulz is still right when he said, "There will always be an audience for innocence in this country." Well, I hope so. Our nation's future literally depends on it.

The **Women's Republican Club of Shreveport (WRC)** every third 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 message. Men are invited to attend and join as associates.

The **Professional Republican Women (PRWC)** meet at 6:00 p.m. at Savoie's The Catering Place on the third 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 requested in advance). Men are welcome to attend and join as associates.

The **Republican Women of Bossier (RWB)** meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Azalea Room of Good Eats, 2177 Airline Drive. "Meet and Greet" starts at 5:30 p.m. Meals are \$15.00. Listening is free. Call Barb Dockall (949-8558, traveller38@suddenlink.net) for reservations (RSVPs, please, by Wednesdays prior to meeting). If you don't plan to eat, there is no charge to listen. Men are welcome to attend and join as associates.

Calendar of Events



- January 7 – Caddo GOP Luncheon, **John White**, Louisiana Superintendent of Education
- January 14 – PRWC dinner
- January 15 – WRC luncheon
- January 16 – PEC meeting, 6:30
Piccadilly Cafeteria
- January 28 – RWB dinner



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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 at louisavallone@mac.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	Harold Coates	868-1212	• Professional Republican Women	Dottie Maziarz	797-4549
• Vice Chairman	Louis R. Avallone	841-1277	• Women's Republican Club of S'port	Roxanne Bosserman	655-2004
• Treasurer	Neil Carlisle	227-2719	• Candidate Assistance Chairman	Mike Thibodeaux	393-2996
• Secretary	Alan Koloc	564-3961	• Parliamentarian/Publicity Chairman	Betsy Malone	868-3464
• Committee Attorney	Louis R. Avallone	841-1277	• Louisiana State Republican Party		225-928-2998
• Caddo/Bossier Republican Office		797-1777	• Webmaster	Allen Marsalis	841-0199

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