



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



Volume 19, Edition 2

Editor: Louis R. Avallone

February 2014

This Month's Meeting

Speaker for this month's luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, February 4** at the Clarion Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **Rocky Thompson**,



Policy Director for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, where he will detail key issues facing our state with the Affordable Care Act, from the effect on Medicaid and Medicare patients to the technical glitches for those visiting healthcare.gov.

Prior to this role, Thomas "Rocky" Thompson served as the Policy Director for the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance and as a legal analyst in the Center for Health Care Innovation at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

He holds a B.A. from Tulane University and a juris doctorate and a bachelor of civil law from LSU Law Center. Mr. Thompson resides in Baton Rouge.

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

From the Chairman

Dear Friends,



The following is a portion of a letter sent to members of the Republican State Central Committee from the LA GOP State Chairman, Roger Villere:

Just ten years ago, when David Vitter first ran for U.S. Senate, it was commonly said that,

Republicans can't win statewide." Today, with the exception of Mary Landrieu (I'll get to her later in this letter), it is commonly said that "Democrats can't be elected to any major office in Louisiana."

Fellow conservatives, you and I know that this revolution did not happen by chance. It was the result of a lot of hard work, fundraising, targeting and prayer--things that define a successful conservative movement. Together, we have been unusually united, focused and effective. While Republicans across America have faced defeat and flirted with abandoning long-held positions, Louisiana Republicans have stood firm, and we have won.

Republicans now hold all seven state offices, one of two US Senate seats, five of six congressional districts and majorities in the Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives, the BESE, the PSC and the Louisiana Supreme Court. Moreover, the corrupt Democrat machine that had reduced Louisiana politics to a punchline for a century can no longer even field a viable candidate in most major races. It's downright embarrassing.

The credit for this turnaround goes not only to all of you, but to the people of Louisiana -- and to the Republican pioneers who worked in Louisiana during the tough decades past. They were dismissed, ridiculed and attacked, but they are not forgotten.

I can only imagine the abuse Charlton Lyons must have taken in 1964 when he ran the first major Republican gubernatorial campaign in modern times. Dave Treen ran three times for Congress and once for governor during the 60's and '70's before being elected to Congress and as governor. Clyde Holloway and Tommy Casanova won seats in '86 and '95 that were "impossible" for Republicans to win. The list goes on.

Today, we stand on the shoulders of these and many other pioneers who fought the good fight. Ultimately, Charlton Lyons won the battle to lead Louisiana. It took fifty years, but he won. And the corrupt liberal machine he dared to challenge is left on the ash heap of history.

Today, conservatives run Louisiana government and we are passing landmark legislation to protect our constitutional rights and rescue children from failing public schools. Our state budget has been reduced and we have stood united in the defense of life, marriage and the Second Amendment.

As Republicans, we've been told that we must compromise our core values in order to win elections. Well, I haven't found that to be true at all, and many of the people who have been advancing this theory have spent the last decade losing elections in other states while we've had a conservative revolution. ~ by Roger Villere

Note: In our SCC meeting on January 18, 2014, Roger Villere was re-elected without opposition.

Harold

And one more item: 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: Austin Robertson, Jim & Martha Allen. **Medallion Members:** Harold & Margaret Coates, Barrow Peacock, and Olive G. Stuart.

*Thank
you*

PEC-n-Order

The Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee met January 16. **Attending:** Louis R. Avallone, Nancy Adcock, Jim Allen, Harold Coates, Micheal Collins, Steve Gibson, Alan Koloc, Creighton Light, and Betsy Malone. **Absent:** Neil Carlisle, and Barry Rachal. The meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in St. Vincent Mall.

PRWC February 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.

SCC Meeting Recap

The Republican State Central Committee met on January 18 in Baton Rouge with a full agenda. The first item on the agenda was the election of officers for the next two years. Incumbent Roger Villere was re-elected by acclamation, as was Treasurer Dan Kyle and Secretary Lilly Brady. Incumbent Vice-Chairman Tommy French was challenged by newcomer to the Committee Henry Lucas and veteran executive committee challenger Mike Bayhem. Incumbent Tommy French missed being re-elected on the first ballot by 2 votes and was handily re-elected in the run-off against Mayhem.

U.S. Senate candidate Bill Cassidy spoke to the group and other candidates introduced themselves. Much routine business of the Party was addressed. There was also much said about the need to replace Mary Landrieu in the Senate.

It was announced that a new more friendly and informative website for the State Party had been launched. Go to www.lagop.com and check it out. Also coming up is a website, www.geauxred.com, to assist in the effort to replace Landrieu.

Honesty is hardly ever heard

By Louis R. Avallone

Americans average about 11 lies per week. There are major ones, and minor ones, of course. Maybe it's an excuse on why you were late, or didn't complete a task. Maybe it's when a friend asks your opinion on a matter, and you wanted to be polite, more than you wanted to tell the truth.

Well, it turns out this may be impacting your health. Linda Stroh, a professor emeritus of organizational behavior at Loyola University in Chicago, explains that, "When you find that you don't lie, you have less stress, and being very conflicted adds an inordinate amount of stress to your life."

In fact, a recent study indicated that as individuals tell more lies, their physical and mental health declines. Conversely, as the number of lies decrease, their health improves.

Might this also be true for our nation's health, as well? After all, are we lying to one another, instead of having an honest discussion about our national debt, the crippling costs of entitlement programs, and the failures of our immigration system? We need to speak truthfully about why our schools are failing and why our healthcare costs are spiraling out of control, and about the deterioration of the family and the whitewashing of religion from our national consciousness? Don't we just need to put it out on the table, and talk openly? We do.

But instead we find ourselves almost always conflicted, as we are reading, watching, and listening ad nauseum to elected officials and news reporting that often are anything but truthful.

What honest person believes Hillary Clinton's or President Obama's explanation about Benghazi? Who really believes the administration's claim that it's a positive sign that the unemployment rate went down .03 percent last month, when there are 92

million people who have dropped out of the labor force altogether, and are not looking for work at all?

Who doesn't feel they were bamboozled for months and months when Obama promised, "If you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it." And now 4 million Americans (so far) have now lost their healthcare plan, and it seems that the administration that this would happen all along. Remember Nancy Pelosi's, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it". Goodness.

But this administration started out straight enough, right? The President promised in 2009, for example, that "my Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation, and collaboration. Openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government."

Who, in their right mind, believes this has happened? Maybe it's because, as some say, we can't handle the truth. After all, our nation is on the verge of bankruptcy, and yet still so many folks seem oblivious and continue supporting policies and candidates that increase government spending, and they do this, year and after year.

But some may say that telling the truth is not all that it is cracked up to be, either. Remember Walter Mondale's 1984 pledge to raise taxes? He said, "Let's tell the truth...Mr. Reagan will raise taxes, and so will I. He won't tell you. I just did." He lost in a landslide, of course, but you could also name many other reasons for that outcome, as well.

The bottom line is that honesty still means something in this world, and it's not just an "American" thing, it's a "human being" thing. And we remember it, or the lack of it, long after the details of its subject matter are long forgotten. Lyndon Johnson lied about Vietnam. Richard Nixon lied about Watergate. Bill Clinton lied about Monica Lewinsky.

Thinking back, it may be no coincidence that Billy Joel's song, "Honesty" was nominated for "Song of the Year" at the Grammy Awards in 1980, right in the middle of that year's presidential campaign. As the song goes, "Honesty is hardly ever heard. And mostly what I need from you. But if you look for truthfulness, you might just as well be blind." Winston Churchill, although likely not a big Billy Joel fan, said it another way: "The truth is heavy, therefore few care to carry it."

No, in the end, it's not that the American people cannot handle the truth; it's that they shouldn't be expected to manage their lives in the absence of 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 rsp.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



- February 4 – Caddo GOP Luncheon, **Rocky Thompson**, Policy Director for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals of Education
- February 18 – PRWC dinner
- February 19 – WRC luncheon
- February 20 – PEC meeting, 6:30 Piccadilly Cafeteria
- February 25 – 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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