



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



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Does Party Matter?

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Our topic for this month's luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, December 1, 2015** at the Wyndham Garden Hotel (formerly the Clarion Hotel) on E. 70th Street will be **"Does Party Matter?"** From the "Republicans for John Bel Edwards" voters, to those who say that it is more important to vote for the person (rather than for their Party), the dissension within the Republican Party on this subject was none more evident than in the gubernatorial run-off on November 21. Many feel that this called into question the very significance of our Party system in this country, especially as we dive head first into the final leg of the 2016 election season in January.

Political parties are essential to democracy because they check abuse of power by elites and keep the government accountable. Just as competition prevents one business from gaining monopolistic control over the market, competitive parties

prevent elites from gaining control over the government by forcing the government to appeal to the majority of voters.



A strong political party system, then, promotes equality in a way that government programs or handouts never could, and empowers the least among us.

PACs and special interest groups, on the other hand, have the effect of widening the disparity in political equality. This is why the middle class feels forgotten, and why so many feel that their political party has left them behind – after all, they simply aren't the center of attention. This will be a lively presentation, and discussion, from all those attending with an opinion on the matter as we enter the 2016 election year.

So join us Tuesday. Reservations not required. Eating is \$13 and listening is free.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Republicans,



The influence of PACs in our Louisiana elections this year has been profound, and perhaps a foreshadowing of the possible escalation of such influence, considering the success of such influence in 2015. George Soros' total investment in the Caddo Parish District Attorney's race was over \$900,000. And his candidate won.

Former Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, invested almost \$1.5 million in our state's BESE races. And depending on who you talk with, all of his candidates won, insofar as they were candidates that supported (or have supported) the Common Core standards, as well as charter schools and publicly funded vouchers.

The question for many, many voters was, "Why would so many, from so far away, invest so much, in our state's elections?" Many wondered what such huge sums of money were used for? While our imaginations may run wild with speculation as to the answer(s) to this question, it seems likely that such had a significant effect on early voting, though. Voter turnout was a little bit higher — at just under 40 percent — in the runoff than the primary, but that was almost entirely due to a significant boost in early voting.

In fact, NOLA.com reported that voting on election day in the primary and runoff was basically the same — around 30 percent. But early voting jumped 36,000 votes from the primary to the runoff, accounting for 92 percent of all increased voting from the primary to the runoff. Additionally, voter turnout in north Louisiana was lower than in other parts of the state.

Here in Caddo Parish, specifically, we had record early voter turnout, says Ernie Roberson, Caddo Parish Registrar of Voters. He reported that his office recorded 10,400 early votes, and that his office likewise received the highest number of mail-in ballots

ever — 3,102. And of the early voting, Democrats dominated with 5,896 early votes compared to Republicans with 3,485 and other parties trailing with 1,019 early votes.

Simultaneously, there are a record number of voters registering as "no party" (twice as many as those registering as Republicans or Democrats, combined), and a rising tide of Republicans, who voted against David Vitter, and dispensed with Party affiliation, saying it was more important to vote for the person, than the Party.

Even Party loyalists can agree that all voters should put principle before Party, but is this a case where the Republican supporters of John Bel Edwards are in the right church, but in the wrong pew? Or should these Republicans consider joining the Democrat Party, or some other Party, instead?

Are they part of a more malignant condition that is weakening our Party system, which is allowing the media and the special interest groups to take the place of the political party system completely in our country? Or does it really matter, at all?

Edmund Burke deemed it impossible for legislative bodies to make policy without forming coalitions. But if we keep weakening our Party system, won't we keep getting what we're getting? Shouldn't we come together as a coalition — as a strong political party — the people's party — and reclaim our nation from the media and the special interests?

In closing, and as always, please consider making a contribution to the Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee, 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).

Very truly yours,

Louis R. Avallone

MEDALLION CLUB (IS GROWING)

Join The Ranks!

The 2015 Medallion Club membership drive is drawing to a close and 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:** Art Schefler, William Golden, M.F. Graham, Gary Moore, Austin G. Robertson, Jr., Dee Simpson, B.L. "Buddy" Shaw, G.A. Frierson, II, Maudie M. Lawson, PRWC; **Medallion:** M.T. Arceneaux, Jim and Martha Allen, Harold and Margaret Coates, Jack Daniel, Ted Roberts, Elmo Norton, George Penfield, Oliver Jenkins, Max Edwards, Barrow Peacock, Mike Thibodeaux, Steve C. Gibson, Women's Republican Club of Shreveport, Frances A. Simpson and Steve Riall. **Supporter:** Olive Stuart, Blanca Collins, and Stanley Kolniak.

THERE'S LESS CHRISTIANS, BUT...

As we begin the Christmas season, there are about 41 million Americans, or 17 percent of the adult population, who are Christian consumers that spend about \$2 trillion annually, and will spend roughly \$30 billion this Christmas season. The American Family Association, a nonprofit that promotes conservative Christian values, publishes an annual "Naughty or Nice list" that ranks retailers based on how frequently they use the word "Christmas." "Nice" retailers this year include Wal-Mart, Hobby Lobby, and Lowe's. "Naughty" ones include Barnes & Noble, PetSmart, and Staples.

CO-MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

As you all may know, there are five (5) brand-new Caddo Parish Commissioners that will be sworn-in soon, including frequent Caddo Republican luncheon attendees, Mario Chavez



and Mike Middleton. They represent a new hope for our community, especially those who feel that past Commissioners were far more interested in what was best for them, than the citizens. But the new Commission will face a considerable amount of scrutiny, and a mountain of challenges to improve the image of the Commission with the voters of Caddo Parish. Among those challenges is a lawsuit that was filed by Elliott Stonecipher and local attorney, Whitney Pesnell. The Caddo Parish Commission has spent \$46,000 thus-far in legal fees in this lawsuit, which challenges the legality of the retirement benefits that Commissioners voted themselves, purportedly in contravention of state law, but with the approval of the Commission's attorney, many years ago. Stonecipher reports that he has confirmed that the person directing the Commission's litigation, is ex-Commissioner (and now Shreveport City Council-member) Stephanie Lynch.

Stonecipher is reporting that Ms. Lynch believes that "Commissioners should be 'full-time,' and paid \$60,000 per year plus 'benefits,' regardless that they work perhaps 12 hours a week and exclusively govern only 20% of parish residents." He reveals that in CPERS retirement benefits alone, "Ms. Lynch has scored more taxpayer money than any other Commissioner. Our contributions of 'match' money to her retirement total \$30,157.13." There is little doubt that the new Commission shares Ms. Lynch's perspective, but the continued attention from some voters are making a significant difference, as the election results certainly reveal.

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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 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 at \$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 Robin Rue-Graves at robinsbirdnest@yahoo.com or by calling her at 965-5001, for reservations (RSVP, please, by Monday). Men are welcome as associates.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1 - GOP Luncheon,
"Importance of Party"
Dec. 15 - PRWC dinner
Dec. 16 - WRC luncheon
Dec. 17 - PEC Meeting
Dec. 22 - RWB dinner
Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!
Dec. 31 - Happy New Year!

THE CADDY 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

• 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
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• Committee Attorney	Louis R. Avallone	841-1277	• Louisiana State Republican Party	225-389-4495
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