



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



Volume 18, Edition 10

Editor: Louis R. Avallone

October 2013

This Month's Meeting

Speakers for this month's luncheon at **12 noon** on **Tuesday, October 1** at the Clarion Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **Caddo District Judge Candidates Mike Miller** and **Brady O'Callaghan**. The candidates will speak about their campaigns, and address the issues challenging our justice system in the coming years.

Mike Miller received his Bachelor of Science from Louisiana State University in Shreveport and his Juris Doctorate from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. He was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1998 and began a general practice alongside his father, Donald R. Miller, in Shreveport. He has approximately 15 years of significant first-hand experience in civil, criminal, and domestic litigation including, but not limited to, medical malpractice, wills & successions, divorce, child custody & support, criminal defense, premises liability, automobile accidents, partitions, contracts, and property disputes. Mike has presented cases before the District Courts for Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Natchitoches, and DeSoto, as well as the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, Caddo and Bossier Juvenile Courts, Shreveport and Bossier City Courts, Louisiana Division of Administrative Law, Social Security Disability Appeals, Office of Workers' Compensation, and the Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.



Brady graduated from Caddo Magnet High School and went on to Yale University, where he received his degree in philosophy with honors. He then obtained his juris doctorate from LSU Law School.

Brady entered a diverse private practice before becoming a prosecutor in New Orleans, where he rose to be a founding member of the homicide prosecution unit. Nearly a decade ago he returned to Shreveport with his wife and has worked as a prosecutor of violent crimes in Caddo Parish



ever since. While Brady maintains a small private practice, his emphasis has been on the prosecution of some of the worst offenders our community has seen. He has secured numerous murder convictions, and has kept those offenders in jail by protecting the cases at the Court of Appeal and Louisiana Supreme Court. Brady has conducted nearly 100 jury trials and nearly 30 homicide trials in his career. Brady is married to Amy Vogel O'Callaghan, and they have twin sons who attend public school in Caddo Parish. Brady is an Eagle Scout and coaches youth football.

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

Medallion Club

The 2013 **Medallion Club** membership drive is kicking off with a number of early joiners. 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 September 19. **Attending:** Nancy Adcock, Steve Gibson, Creighton Light, Betsy Malone, Harold Coates, Alan Koloc, and Jim Allen. **Guests:** Theresa and Matt Schupbach. **Absent:** Eddie Brossette, Neil Carlisle, Micheal Collins, Louis R. Avallone, and Barry Rachal. The meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Picadilly Cafeteria in St. Vincent Mall.

PRWC October 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 Oct. 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 October 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. Men are welcome to attend and join as associates. On Sept. 29th the

WRC will sponsor a shooting event titled, 'Guns and Republicans' at the Los Paloma Sporting Range in Benton. Call Glenda Stark at 830-426-9247 to register or for more information.

Caddo Commission Word Ju-Jitsu

By Louis R. Avallone

When is a term limit, not really a term limit? Well, when it's an initiative that's added to the ballot for next month special election on October 19, and here's what I mean:

Using a form of word **ju-jitsu**, the Caddo Parish Commission, by a vote of 9-3, approved a ballot measure, back in July, that sets forth the following before the voters, in next month's election:

Shall Paragraph A, Section 3-01 of Article III of the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter be amended to read as follows? Section 3-01. Composition, qualifications and election. A. The legislative power of the parish government shall be vested in a Commission consisting of members who shall be called commissioners and who shall be elected for four-year terms from districts enumerated in Section 9-01, one from and by the qualified electors in each district. The commissioners shall be limited to five (5) consecutive elected terms.

So, if you are in support of term limits, and most people are, with recent polling indicating that 75% of us do, then this ballot initiative seems to be right up your alley, so to speak, right?

Well, not at all, actually, considering that the current term limit for Commissioners is only three (3) consecutive elected terms, and a vote "for" this ballot initiative will actually INCREASE the number of consecutive terms to five (5). I mean, why didn't they just say that to begin with?

The wording of the ballot is misleading, at best, and insulting to the intelligence of the voters of Caddo Parish, at worst. And many reports in the local news media only add to the confusion here, inasmuch as they refer to this as a "term limit" ballot measure, which is an oxymoron once you know the facts.

This sort of gobbledegook wording of ballots is not new, but it threatens to redefine our democratic society because if voters don't understand the

wording for each ballot measure, that means that they are only participating in some parts of the election, and not in all parts. It's no wonder that voter turnout is so abysmal these days, and is continuing to worsen.

Did you know that the National Center for Education Statistics found that the average reading level in the U.S. is at the 8th-grade level, but that the average statewide ballot measure is written at a 17th-grade reading level?

So, if it's best to have a year of graduate school behind you, in order to best understand the writing level of the average statewide ballot measure, what do the majority of voters do then, when the ballot language is unclear? They skip the item on the ballot completely, or they will just guess as to what the question means, even though that may represent a flawed understanding of the issue altogether.

And if the questions are rather lengthy, like the 84 word count of this so-called "term limit" measure on the ballot next month, voters will often skip those too, because of the time required to read the question, not to mention that the Louisiana Election Code limits each voter to only 3 minutes in the voting booth before poll commissioners are required to remove you from the booth altogether (unless you are using an audio ballot).

So, how about some plain language, for a change? What if next month's ballot initiative was written more simply, like this:

Amend Paragraph A, Section 3-01 of Article III of the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter, to increase the number of consecutive four-year terms allowed for Commissioners from three (3) to five (5).

That's easy enough, right? After all, study after study show that questions written in a way that are difficult to read have less people voting on them, and that plain language improves accuracy in voting, as well, because voters know exactly what they are voting for. And that's good for everyone, regardless of their reading grade level.

If public servants, like the Caddo Parish commissioners, want to ensure that people vote their intentions, then they must likewise make sure

that the voters understand the language on their ballot.

Word of the Day

Mugwump: Someone who is independent or who remains undecided or neutral in politics. The jocular word *mugwump*, noted as early as 1832, is from Algonquian (Natick) *mugquomp*, "important person, kingpin" (from *mugumquomp*, "war leader") implying that they were "sanctimonious" or "holier-than-thou," in holding themselves aloof from party politics. After the election, *mugwump* survived for more than a decade as an epithet for a party bolter in American politics.

Word
of the Day

Translation of the Month

When liberals use the following phrases: solidarity, empowerment, join the struggle, **here is what that really means:** anti-capitalism, collectivism, socialism, anarchy.



Democrats Propose Beauty Tax

In a move that represents a surprising although logical extension of the current demand by the 99% crowd for a more progressive tax system, the Obama administration has proposed a beauty tax that will be built into the new health care system. In the search for ever greater equality and degrees of fairness, the administration is relying on the many scientific studies that have shown that good looks give those who possess them an advantage in college admission, obtaining jobs and securing promotions, which contributes in a significant way to economic inequality. While the government cannot make people equally beautiful, it can redistribute the wealth acquired through the unfair natural allocation of pulchritude. Under the new health care law, physicians administering the mandatory annual good health examination will apply rigorous guidelines to calculate a person's pulchritude index, which in turn will add points to the effective tax rate. Republicans greeted the news with a mix of jeers and genuine outrage, demanding that the new tax not go toward more Democratic spending. Proposals have been floated in the Republican House that a tax credit be awarded to those who fall short of average, to ensure that the new proposal remains revenue neutral.

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



- October 1 – Caddo GOP Luncheon,
District Judge Candidates
Mike Miller and Brady
O'Callaghan
- October 15 – PRWC dinner
- October 16 – WRC luncheon
- October 17 – PEC meeting, 6:30 p.m.,
Piccadilly Cafeteria
- October 22 – RWB dinner



Allen Marsalis
President

Office: 318.841.0199
Cell: 318.347.0289
Toll Free: 888.694.6161
333 Texas Street, Suite 505 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Email: am@bandwise.com
www.bandwise.com

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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SHREVEPORT, LA 71105

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