



THE CADDO REPUBLICAN



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Editor: Louis R. Avallone

November 2013

This Month's Meeting

Speaker for this month's luncheon at **12 noon on Tuesday, November 5** at the Clarion Hotel on E. 70th Street will be **Scott Hughes** with the **Alliance for Education**. Scott will speak about the critical changes needed in education locally, as well as the recent changes within the Alliance for Education itself.



Scott Hughes has served as the Executive Director of the Alliance For Education, a non-profit organization located here in Shreveport, focusing on systemic improvement of the public education system in the seven parishes of northwest Louisiana. He is a graduate of Centenary College with a B.S. in Business Administration.

Scott is very active in civic activities and has served on a number of local Board of Directors including the Boy Scouts of America, the YMCA, Shreveport Green and several area Chambers of Commerce. Scott received the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce Young Leader Award in 1999, was named Small Business Person of the Year in 2000 and was a graduate of the CABL Leadership Louisiana Program Class of 2007. He serves as the on-air political analysts for KTBS-TV, the Shreveport market ABC affiliate. The son of a retired Air Force officer and school teacher, Scott grew up living around the country and the world, but now by choice lives in Shreveport with his wife and two children.

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

From the Chairman

It is alarming to see the number of actions taken recently to diminish the fighting strength of our United States Military. It leads us to ask, "Why are we doing this?"



Many high-ranking military officers have been fired or relieved of duty by forced retirements. At least 11 Generals or Admirals have been cut in recent years. All these firings have been for seemingly insignificant reasons.

Additionally, the Defense Departments budget has been severely cut during this same time frame.

Likely you are aware of the recent news headlines about the decision of the current administration to hold up the payments to the families of the soldiers killed in action in foreign countries. They died for our country and yet they don't want to pay for the funerals and compensate the families of these heroes.

Then how about the plan to spend over \$8 million of your tax dollars to replace the hats worn by our fighting forces? They have been described as the new feminine hats for our nation's best. They are fine for the women in military, but not for the men.

And of course there looms the possibility that the armed forces will no longer be able to give reference to our Lord God in the pledge, swearing-in ceremonies and for witness testimonies.

All these things could make our best citizens not want to participate in the service of our country. Who else has the capability to defend our great nation?

Harold

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.

Who is Congress?

By Harold Coates

Who makes up the United States Congress? We've all heard how Congress has a single digit approval rate. The U.S. Congress is made up of two houses, The House of Representative and the Senate. Unfortunately, many folks relate the term 'Congress' as the members of the House of Representatives, because we refer to our representative as 'Congressman'. In reality 'Congress' includes the members of the Democrat led Senate as well.

There are 535 member of Congress, which include 435 members of the House, and 100 members of the Senate. Being perfectly correct, members of the House should be referred to Representatives and members of the Senate as Senator, meaning that our two key representatives are Senator David Vitter and Representative John Fleming.

I point this out because the low rating for Congress also includes the Senate, which has a majority of Democrats. A low rating for Congress includes the Democrat-led Senate as well. Speaking of our representation for Caddo Parish, we are very

fortunate to have two leaders who represent the best for all our citizens. Senator Vitter and Representative Fleming are doing a very good job of monitoring our needs and voting accordingly while in their Congressional leadership.

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 to get one, or two, or three...or however many you need.

PEC-n-Order

The Caddo Republican Parish Executive Committee met October 17th. **Attending:** Louis R. Avallone, Nancy Adcock, Jim Allen (P), Harold Coates, Steve Gibson, Alan Koloc, and Creighton Light. **Absent:** Neil Carlisle, Micheal Collins, Betsy Malone and Barry Rachal. **Guests:** Ronnie Remedies. 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 PRWCI989@gmail.com or contact Pam Gutekunst at pamgutekunst@bellsouth.net, or phone 797-0802.

Bossier Republican Women Nov. 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 November 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.

Wal-Mart: More Than Low Prices...

By Louis R. Avallone

A “free-for-all” is usually a disorderly fight, or argument, in a crowd, where everyone present participates. But at the Wal-Mart stores in Springhill and Mansfield this month, a different “free-for-all” broke out. And even though police were called to assist, there wasn’t a single punch thrown.

You see, this time, the “free-for-all” describes the shoppers who, on that quiet Saturday night, had emptied the store shelves as quickly as possible, and into shopping cart after shopping cart, after learning that the balance remaining on their EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) cards could not be easily verified by the store, because the network was temporarily unavailable.

As Springhill Police Chief Will Lynd described the shopping frenzy, “It was worse than any black Friday” that he’s ever seen, as he watched some shoppers push 8-10 grocery carts past the registers and into the parking lot, even though it was apparent that many shoppers had purchased far more than their available card balances. Wal-Mart officials, however, had decided to let shoppers make the purchases using the EBT cards anyway.

It’s more than worth mentioning that there were many last month that did not abuse the system, by piling food into shopping cart after shopping cart. As one of the recipients said, “I am conscious of the fact that this isn’t my money.” And as quietly as this “free-for-all” began, it ended. The network came back online, and an announcement was made over the loudspeaker. Shoppers then fled, leaving their carts, full of perishable food, in the aisles for store employees to cleanup behind them.

This all received lots of national media attention, of course, and justifiable outrage. Some said that it was simply a case of, “easy come, easy go”. Others called it, “theft”. Still others pointed to Washington’s failed economic policies, and the pervasive hopelessness of so many Americans today. In fact, since the Bush administration, the number of Americans receiving public assistance, in the form of food stamps, has almost doubled, and today stands at 47 million Americans (or nearly one sixth of the U.S. population).

And while these characterizations may all be true, the Saturday night “free-for-all” at those Wal-Mart stores underscores the principle that no one spends someone else’s money as wisely as their

own. It’s this principle that has led many economists to propose providing cash benefits directly to low-income folks, and eliminating altogether the plethora of Great Society programs, such as food stamps, unemployment insurance, rent subsidies, and other “in-kind” transfers. After all, when it’s your own money that you are spending foolishly, it makes all the difference in the world, because there are rewards, and consequences.

The Cracker-Jack welfare-programs from 1964 still incentivize low-income folks to earn less, and save nothing. It is estimated that welfare recipients lose \$0.50 or more of benefits for each additional dollar they earn. Housing vouchers are only available if you make sure that you earn less than 50 percent of the median income in your area. Want to get a raise at your place of employment? Plan on losing even more benefits. These programs incentivize less work and promote mediocrity. They always have. There are actually more people in poverty now than in 1964 when Lyndon Johnson launched the Great Society programs, thereby declaring his so-called war on poverty. In hindsight, it’s proven more political, than practical.

Providing cash benefits directly to low-income folks is not a new idea, and may not be any more costly than the present day bloated bureaucratic administration of welfare benefits. In fact, a recent Congressional Research Service memorandum revealed cash benefits would actually save taxpayers money. Here’s how:

The federal government spends approximately \$750 billion a year on means-tested welfare programs. If the federal government would give this money directly to the 17 million households living below the poverty level, each one of these families would receive \$44,000, which is nearly double the 2013 poverty rate for a family of four.

The bottom line here is that people are the best stewards of their own money, and that government can never duplicate such stewardship, despite their best efforts, regardless of ever increasing regulations and standards, on everything from housing to nutrition. As Ronald Reagan once said, “I don’t believe in a government that protects us from ourselves”.

So, no, there was not any fighting during the “free-for-all” this month in Mansfield, or in Springhill, but it seems clear, through: it was our federal government who got the black-eye.

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



Find us on
Facebook

- November 1 – Caddo GOP Luncheon, Scott Hughes, Alliance for Education
- November 19 – PRWC dinner
- November 20 – WRC luncheon
- November 21 – PEC meeting, 6:30 p.m., Piccadilly Cafeteria
- November 26 – RWB dinner
- November 28 – Thanksgiving



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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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