



Lady Republican

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA



Nic Hunter

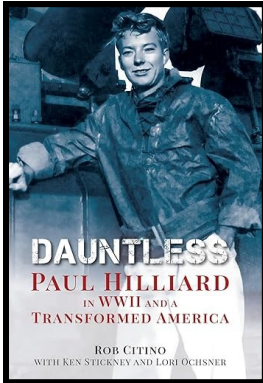
City of Lake Charles Mayor



A life-long resident of Lake Charles and small business owner, Nic Hunter was elected to the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury in 2011 and was in his second term when he was elected to the office of Mayor of Lake Charles in 2017. Mayor Hunter was elected to a second term in 2021. Mayor Hunter graduated from St. Louis Catholic High School in 2002. In 2007, he received a Bachelor of Arts in History from McNeese State University.

Mayor Hunter's administration launched the Partners in Parks initiative in 2018, which has secured more than \$1.6M in private donations and grants. Partners in Parks has transformed several City parks and brought events and programming to levels never seen before in City history. Since taking office, Mayor Hunter has had a steady focus on infrastructure, including increasing funding for drainage improvements by 93 percent. The City's Drainage Improvement Program is the first proactive, citywide drainage cleaning initiative in modern City history. The City has broken ground on dozens of road improvement projects, launched an automated water meter upgrade program, and broken ground on a brand new water plant. This new water plant will increase water capacity to the City of Lake Charles by 30%. Under Mayor Hunter's leadership, lakefront development has become a reality. A lakefront parking garage, which had sat damaged since 2015, was renovated and is now ready to service guests. Port Wonder, a science & nature center and state of the art children's museum, will open in early spring 2025. Economic development has been another major success, with a specific focus on diversity and areas that have seen disinvestment. Mayor Hunter created several Economic Development Districts which have helped support multiple projects. Mayor Hunter passionately led the community through a string of natural disasters, including Hurricane Harvey (August 2017), the COVID-19 Pandemic, Hurricane Laura (August 2020), Hurricane Delta (October 2020), Winter Storm Uri (February 2021) and a 1,000 Year Rain Event/Flash Flood (May 2021). His tireless efforts gave citizens a voice as he advocated for the needs of Southwest Louisiana at the local, state and federal levels. Mayor Hunter was a key part of the team which secured the Louisiana Restore program, which opened up over \$1B of federal aid to Southwest Louisiana after the 2020/2021 storms. Over 300 home owners in the City of Lake Charles have benefited from the Restore program. In 2023, Mayor Hunter launched an effort to create a more resilient and sustainable future for Lake Charles. In November 2023, Lake Charles voters successfully passed "LC REBOUND," a \$190M tax neutral bond and tax restructuring proposal. LC REBOUND is paving the way to fast-track dozens of key infrastructure and quality of life projects.

Mayor Hunter has been married to his wife, Becky, an accomplished lawyer in Southwest Louisiana since 2015. They have a son, Harrison, and daughter, Colette.



Clayton "Paul" Hilliard

Author, "Dauntless"

Born in 1925 in Sandburr Coulee, Wisconsin, Clayton Paul Hilliard grew up on a struggling family farm during the Great Depression. With his father chronically ill, his mother managed the farm and raised three boys under harsh conditions, including drought and financial hardship. At 11, a fire destroyed the family's barn and equipment, forcing them to move to town and rely on dairy sales for income. Hilliard also took on a paper route, sparking his interest in geography and history.

After his father's death when Hilliard was 14, he lived with relatives to finish high school. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, flying 45 missions as a radioman and gunner. Using the GI Bill, he earned degrees from Wisconsin University, Syracuse University, and a law degree from the University of Texas in 1951. Hilliard began his career at Chevron but soon pursued independent oil and gas production, founding Badger Oil Corp in 1955. Over 53 years, he faced both failure and success but found the oil business exciting and challenging.

Hilliard has contributed generously to civic and charitable initiatives. The Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum in Lafayette, Louisiana, showcases over 2,000 artworks. He has served on numerous boards, including the National World War II Museum and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana. He also chaired the Independent Petroleum Association of America and founded the Badger Excellence in Education Foundation, focusing on early childhood literacy.



Join us for a "Double Feature" Brunch

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Buffet Brunch: 10:30am

Meeting: 11am

Lake Charles Country Club
3350 Country Club Dr.

RSVP by noon
Tuesday, January 21
tbdoucet@gmail.com

2025 Officers

President

Mary "Sister" Fontenot

1st Vice-President

Emily Fenet Parker

2nd Vice-President

Terri Doucet

Treasurer

Jonell Wilkinson

Recording Secretary

Darla Lennox

Corresponding Secretary

Kay Stephens

Announcements & Events

Tuesday, January 21, Noon
RSVP meeting deadline

**Thursday, January 23,
10:30am “Double Feature”**
Brunch meeting
w/City of Lake Charles Mayor
Nic Hunter & Author Clayton
“Paul” Hilliard

City Council Meetings
Wednesday, January 15 and
February 5 & 19 at 5:30pm City
Council Chambers
326 Pujos St.

Police Jury Meetings
Thursdays, January 9 & 30 and
February 6 & 20 at 5:30pm
1015 Pithon St.

**Calcasieu Parish School
Board Meetings**
January 14 and February 11
at 5pm

**Thursday, January 30,
5:30pm CRPEC Roundtable
w/Brett Geymann**
Loggerheads Riverside
Event Center, \$30 per person

Message from our President, Sister Fontenot

Dear Republican Women of SWLA,

Happy New Year! We are off to a terrific start with Donald Trump as our President and a majority in the House and Senate. We all hope and pray that the outstanding people appointed to President Trump's Cabinet will be confirmed. Our Club is well known for being the largest and “Best All-Around Club” in the State! We want to continue building on this reputation, allowing us to get outstanding speakers! Emily Fenet Parker, our first Vice-President, is working hard to schedule interesting and informative speakers. If there is someone you would like to hear from, please let Emily know.

It is time for Membership Renewal. Our Membership Chair, Terri Doucet, is doing an awesome job. Please renew this month and encourage your relatives and friends to join too! We need to continue to build the Republican Party so its overwhelming strength will keep us in control of the White House for years to come! The election of Donald Trump is our first step in securing the White House and bringing “common sense” back to this country. However, it is only the beginning of Making this Country Great Again! We must continue to build on this success by growing our party and staying involved in promoting the platform and ideals of the Republican Party! If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let me know! I assure you with all the fun we are having we can use the extra hands! Thanks to all of you who support our Club and continue to help us to be the number one Republican Women's Club in Louisiana as well as the status of a top-tier GOLD CLUB in the United States! We love to have you as members and hope you will continue to attend our monthly meetings as well!

-Sister



November Luncheon
Thursday, November 21, 2024
With Calcasieu Parish District Attorney, Stephen Dwight



REPUBLICAN Women
of Southwest Louisiana

The Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana was chartered in 1990 as an affiliate club of the Louisiana Federation of Republican Women ([LFRW](#)) & the National Federation of Republican Women ([NFRW](#)). Our club centers around Lake Charles, Louisiana and includes cities within the parishes of Calcasieu and Cameron, although members outside this area may join. Our club belongs to Region 3 of the LFRW. Part of our membership dues are sent to the LFRW and, in turn, to the NFRW. Thus, each member of our local club automatically becomes a member of the state & national clubs when we annually send in our membership rolls and dues.

Organization Objectives:

- Promote an informed electorate through political education and activity.
- Increase the effectiveness of women in the cause of good government.
- Foster loyalty to the Republican Party and to promote its principles and ideas.
- Support Republican objectives and policies and work for the election of Republican nominees.

**Are You Social?
We Are!**

Like our Facebook Page

Follow us on Instagram
[@republicanwomenofswla](#)

Follow us on Twitter [@RWofSWLA](#)



Check out our Website!

www.rswla.com

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Pioneer Club



Join the CRPEC & Republican Roundtable for an event with District 35 House Representative Brett Geymann, Natural Resources & Environmental Chair. Book your tickets now [BrettGeymann CRPECRoundtable](#)



March 2025 Election

Saturday, March 29, 2025

- City of Lake Charles Mayor
- City Council Members

EARLY VOTING Saturday, March 15 - Saturday, March 22

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS:

Lake Charles

Registrar of Voter's Office

2nd floor - Historic Calcasieu Courthouse, downtown Lake Charles

Sulphur

Sulphur Law Enforcement Bldg., 500 A Huntington St.

Moss Bluff

Moss Bluff Library

261 Parish Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611

Iowa

Library Activity Annex (behind Library)

109 S. Thompson Ave., Iowa, LA 70647

****To see your specific ballot go to [GeauxVoteWebsite](#) or download the Geaux Vote app**