



# Lady Republican

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA



**State Representative Ronnie Johns District 27~** Ronnie Johns has served as Louisiana State Senator for District 27 since 2012. He is also a respected businessman and community leader. Ronnie is originally from Bunkie, Louisiana. He attended Northeast Louisiana University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Pharmacy Degree. After working as a pharmacist for several years, he opened his own State Farm insurance agency in Sulphur, Louisiana, in 1982.

Ronnie has been married to his wife Michelle, a retired teacher, for 32 years, and they have one daughter Clair. Clair and her husband Alex Broussard have two sons, Lawson and Locke. Ronnie's public service career began after college when he was elected to the city council. Since then, he has remained active in politics, most often by helping others win elections to local, parish, and state offices. In 1995, his business and family were secure and he felt the call of service to run for office. He ran successfully for state representative, an office he held for three consecutive terms, the maximum allowed in Louisiana. In 2011, Ronnie was asked to run for his district's open seat in the state senate. He ran without opposition. Ronnie's life, from his success as a small-business owner to his public and community service, is guided by two lessons learned early on: work hard and give back.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

## Newsletter Staff

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Deadline for submissions-  
2nd Thursday of the month

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Thursday, September 24  
Buffet Lunch @ 11:30 am  
Regular Meeting @ 12:00 -1:00 pm

**Reeves Uptown Catering**  
1639-B Ryan St., Lake Charles, LA

**Guest Speaker - State Rep. Ronnie Johns, Dist. 27**  
**Guest- Candidate for State Rep, Dist. 36, Dr. Keith DeSonier**

Reservations by Tuesday September 22  
Marsha 337-842-4220 or  
[mlspear59@att.net](mailto:mlspear59@att.net)



### Meet Dr. Keith DeSonier~Candidate for State Representative - District 36

Some of the major issues facing our aging population are the access and affordability of quality health care and how to best address the effects of Obamacare. We are seeing more medical professionals enter the political arena because front-line physicians are often best able to understand the complexities and shape the future of health care in our state and in our nation. Along with the issue of healthcare, jobs and workforce development will be among my top priorities as a state representative. The historic growth and opportunities in Southwest Louisiana make it imperative that we provide a skilled and educated workforce to meet the upcoming job demands, but few will want to stay or build futures in our area if we cannot continue to improve our overall quality of life. Also, there is no question we need to improve our K-12 education outcomes, but we must also grow opportunities for skills training from our area technical colleges, and we must fight to reverse the cuts to higher education that could cripple our workforce efforts. The new governor and a new legislature will have a unique opportunity to address fundamental changes in Louisiana's tax structure that will help prioritize spending and lay a foundation for economic growth in the future. However, those changes will take courage, vision and leadership.

I have been married to Dale Dane DeSonier for 44 years. We have three children, Emery, 39; Ainsley, 36; and Keith Jr., 34; as well as two grandchildren, Isaac and Evangeline. Ainsley is a special needs child and will serve as DeSonier's campaign Chairperson. She is an inspiration to all those who meet her, and she has promised "a well-run, clean and positive campaign." Dale & I have been longtime active members of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic parish and have participated in church missions in Granada, Nicaragua and Mexico. We are also active in social and civic organizations, including Children's Miracle Network, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Reserve Officers Association, Retired Officers Association, St. Louis High School Foundation and more. In addition to our civic and religious affiliations, I am honored to have received numerous awards and appointments for my community service. I have been appointed to state medical positions by Governors Foster, Blanco and Jindal and was recently inducted into the Louisiana State Medical Society Hall of Fame, receiving the Jerome Goldstein Award for Public Service from the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

### Message from RWSWLA President-

The NFRW Convention in Phoenix was a great opportunity to network with strong women across the country. Jackie Hebert, Lana Hafner, and I met many wonderful people each day we were there. I can finally say I have been somewhere that is hotter than Louisiana and West Texas. The slated officers were elected, as well as three Members-At-Large. Suzanne Crow from Mandeville stepped down as one of the Members-At-Large. Joann Parker, current LFRW Treasurer, was elected during the first round. Please take a moment to send her a note to congratulate her. The highlight of the trip was running into Carly Fiorina as we stepped out of the elevator. Jackie said, "OMG! I am such a fan". She smiled, shook both of our hands and talked a moment with us. Unfortunately, we were so star struck that we didn't ask to take a selfie.

If you would like to hear her speech addressing the NFRW crowd, click the following link on YouTube : <https://youtu.be/FXKwLEJZyT8>



Armed Forces Card signing



Jackie & Carly Fiorina

# NFRW Biennial Convention Phoenix Highlights September 2015



Sedona





## Upcoming Election Information

### **Fall Gubernatorial Election**

The following is important information for the **Oct. 24, 2015 primary** and the **Nov. 21, 2015 general**:

- state candidates qualify in the executive offices of Secretary of State Tom Schedler at 8585 Archives Ave., in Baton Rouge (hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.);
- local and municipal candidates qualify with the clerk of court in the parish in which they are registered to vote (contact your local clerk of court for office hours);
- view a list of qualifying fees (payment must be in the form of cash; certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union; United States postal money order; or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union);
- download the fillable qualifying form;
- **early voting is Oct. 10-17 (except Sunday and holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Oct. 24th primary election; and**
- early voting is Nov. 7-14 (except Sunday and holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Nov. 21st general election.

### **Spring Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections**

- The following is important information for the **March 5, 2016 presidential preference and municipal primary** and **April 9, 2016 municipal general**:
- qualifying period is Dec. 2nd, 3rd and 4th until 4:30 p.m.;
- state candidates qualify in the executive offices of Secretary of State Tom Schedler at 8585 Archives Ave., in Baton Rouge. There are no state candidates (other than president) scheduled to run in this election, however, a special election may be called in the event of a vacancy (secretary of state's office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.);
- local and municipal candidates qualify with the clerk of court in the parish in which they are registered to vote (contact your local clerk of court for office hours);
- view a list of qualifying fees (payment must be in the form of cash; certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union; United States postal money order; or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union);
- download the standard fillable qualifying form or the presidential preference primary fillable qualifying form;
- **early voting is Feb. 20-27 (except Sunday and holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the March 5th primary election; and**
- early voting is March 26th thru April 2nd (except Sunday and holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the April 9th general election.
- 

Info from: <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/Pages/default.aspx>



## 2016 Presidential Preference Primary

A statewide presidential preference primary election is held on the **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in March in 2016 and every 4<sup>th</sup> year thereafter** for the purpose of allowing the electors of each political party in the state which has 40,000 or more registered members to express their preference for a person to be the nominee of the party for president of the United States.

- This election is a closed party election. There are only two political parties involved, the Democratic and Republican parties, because they have 40,000 or more registered members.
- Democratic voters may only vote on candidates for the offices of Democratic presidential nominee and Democratic state and local committees, plus any local offices and/or propositions.
- Republican voters may only vote on candidates for the offices of Republican presidential nominee and Republican state and local committees, plus any local offices and/or propositions.
- All other voters may vote only for any local offices and/or propositions if any are on the ballot.
- There are no runoff elections for the Democratic and Republican offices. A general election is held only if local offices are on the ballot and no one receives a majority vote in the primary election.
- **The 2016 Presidential Preference Primary Election will be held on March 5, 2016.**
- **Qualifying will be on December 2-4, 2015.**
- **The last day to register to vote in this election is February 3, 2016.**
- **Absentee by mail ballots may be requested until March 1, 2016.** *(Except for military stationed anywhere, civilians overseas, persons hospitalized, and sequestered juror voters)*
- **Early Voting will be held February 20-27, 2016.**

*Info copied from : [http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/  
PublishedDocuments/2016PresidentialPreferencePrimary.pdf](http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/2016PresidentialPreferencePrimary.pdf)*

**2015 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS***October 24, 2015 Election*

The four (4) constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot for the **October 24, 2015** election are listed below.

**Proposed Amendment No. 1**

**Act No. 473**, *Senate Bill No. 202, Regular Session, 2015, by Senator Adley*

"Do you support an amendment to rename the Budget Stabilization Fund to the Budget and Transportation Stabilization Trust; to authorize the mineral revenue base to be increased every five years; to create the Budget Stabilization Subfund as a subfund in the Trust, to be funded with mineral revenues until reaching a maximum balance of five hundred million dollars, to be appropriated and used when the state has a deficit; to create the Transportation Stabilization Subfund as a subfund in the Trust, to be funded with mineral revenues until reaching a maximum balance of five hundred million dollars, to be appropriated and used for planning, design, construction, and maintenance connected with the state highway program, with twenty percent dedicated for use by the Louisiana Intermodal Connector Program; and to provide for the interruption of deposits into the Budget Stabilization Subfund and the Transportation Trust Subfund the year that the state has a deficit and the following year with the resumption of deposit of mineral revenues in the Budget and Transportation Stabilization Trust thereafter?"

(Amends Article VII, Section 10(D)(2)(d), 10.3(A)(introductory paragraph) and (A)(2)(a)(introductory paragraph) and (b), and 10.5(B); adds Article VII, Section 10.3(A)(2)(c))

Proposed Constitutional Amendments for the *October 24, 2015* Election

**Proposed Amendment No. 2**

**Act No. 471**, *House Bill No. 618, Regular Session, 2015, by Representative St. Germain and Representative Armes*

"Do you support an amendment to authorize the investment of funds for a state infrastructure bank to be used solely for transportation projects?"

(Amends Article VII, Section 14(B))

**Proposed Amendment No. 3**

**Act No. 472**, *House Bill No. 518, Regular Session, 2015, by Representative Stokes*

"Do you support an amendment to allow any legislation regarding the dedication of revenue, rebates, and taxes to be considered during a fiscal legislative session?"

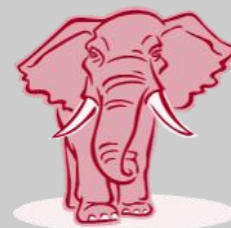
(Amends Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b))

**Proposed Amendment No. 4**

**Act No. 470**, *House Bill No. 360, Regular Session, 2015, by Representative Chaney and Senator Thompson*

"Do you support an amendment to specify that the ad valorem property tax exemption for public lands and other public property shall not apply to land or property owned by another state or a political subdivision of another state?"

(Amends Article VII, Section 21(A))

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS****Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, Sept. 24, 11:30 am**  
Monthly luncheon meeting

**Tuesday, October 6, 6:00 pm**  
Prepare packages for the Troops  
Faith Temple, 1200 Patton St., Sulphur

**Friday Oct. 9, 6:00 -9:00 pm**  
LFRW Evening with Laura Ingraham  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 8:00 am- 3:30 pm**  
LFRW Spring Board Meeting  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge. LA

Use the links below to search for the latest news:

**National GOP** - <https://gop.com/news/>

**Congressman Boustany** - <http://boustany.house.gov/#dialog>

**Senator David Vitter** - <http://www.vitter.senate.gov/from-davids-desk>

**Senator Bill Cassidy** - <http://www.cassidy.senate.gov/issues>

**LFRW** - <http://lfrw.com/>

**NFRW** - <http://nfrw.org/>

**[Check us out on the web!](http://www.rwsvla.com)**  
**[www.rwsvla.com](http://www.rwsvla.com)**



*Republican Women of  
Southwest Louisiana*



*The Louisiana Federation of Republican Women presents...*

## *An Evening with Laura Ingraham*



Fox News Contributor - Radio Talk Show Host

Author of several NY Times Best Sellers such as

*The Obama Diaries, Power to the People, Shut Up and Sing and The Hillary Trap.*

The Most Listened To Woman in America on Political Talk Radio

Friday, October 9, 2015 - 6-9 pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Executive Center

4728 Constitution Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (College Dr. exit off I -10 )

Order Your Individual Tickets or Sponsor Tables at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-laura-ingraham-tickets-17834100274>

*You will not want to miss this evening of Food, Fun and Conversations  
with conservative thinking citizens who are concerned about the direction of our country.*

- \$ 5,000. - Front Row - Premiere Sponsor Table with seating for 8 plus 4 tickets to the Private Reception with Laura and will be listed in all Media Ads and the Event Program as a Major Sponsor.
- \$ 2,500. - Second Row - Deluxe Sponsor Table with seating for 8 plus 2 tickets to the Private Reception with Laura and will be listed as a Sponsor in the Event Program.
- \$ 1,000. Sponsors will receive a reserved table for 10 with premium location and will be listed in the Event Program as a Sponsor.
- \$ 100. - All other tickets

**All Ticket Prices Include Dinner - Deadline to order tickets - Oct. 1, 2015**

Send Questions or Comments to [Treasurer@LFRW.org](mailto:Treasurer@LFRW.org)



## May meeting with Ronnie Johns & Mark Abraham



**Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana  
Monthly meeting August 27, 2015  
Reeves Uptown Catering**



The meeting was called to order by president, Roby Dyer. Janice Areno led the Pledge of Allegiance. Beth Morris gave the invocation.

**Guest Speaker** - Mark Abraham, candidate for Senate District 36, gave background information on himself and family. He feels that he has a lot to offer Louisiana. He believes that he doesn't do any of it alone, that it takes teamwork. He is running for Senate because he believes that our children and grandchildren are worth fighting for. Lake Charles is the epicenter of industry in the area. We need to keep the growth going so that more industry will locate here. We need to educate and provide training & workforce development to supply the jobs that are coming. He asked for our support in the election.

**Guest Speaker** - Congressman Boustany says that America is an exceptional country. He is proud to represent us. We ARE America. He discussed the following topics:

Iran Agreement - What are we going to do with it? He looked over it in detail. He will NOT support this agreement. An example of why is that Iran will get everything they want and we will get nothing we want. They are 3-12 months from having a bomb.

Planned Parenthood - As a doctor, he has taken an oath to hold human life at its highest level. It is hard to believe the news that they are selling fetal tissue. He is trying to de-fund Planned Parenthood, and even prosecute the illegal acts.

Welfare - There is no accountability. He is working on re-vamping the program for the first time since it began in 1996. He believes that the program should continue without increasing funding. Recipients should be tracked and their outcomes of the program should be measured. Recipients of the program should be required to work.

Health care - There are penalties under ObamaCare for small businesses of up to \$100/day for each employee. Boustany is introducing a bill that will stop this penalty.

VA - The VA is making a final decision on the Lake Charles location of the facility. He will not stop until the clinic is open and staffed with qualified workers.

This fall will be very busy for him. He feels that we have given him the greatest honor by electing him to represent us. He will never forget that. Congressman Boustany opened the floor to questions and closed.

**Announcements:**

Dr. Kurth informed the club of an event being held at the Rosa Heart Theater. On Constitution day, September 17, Judge Jeanine Pirro will be speaking at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 and \$20 for students.

There will be a Run & Fundraiser for slain Trooper Vincent, Sunday August 30. Cost is \$20 per runner and 100% of proceeds will go to the Vincent family.

Pillows for Troops will be Tuesday, September 1.

Door prizes were drawn.

Meeting was adjourned.

Recording Secretary Jacinda Vincent

**Be Passionate \* Be Committed**

# Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana

## Membership Application / Renewal Form

YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN TO JOIN

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone (opt): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday(month/day): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Permission to include your e-mail address in our club directory? **Yes** **No**

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member of another LFRW club? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Renewing Members: if any contact information above has changed, please mark it with \*.

### Committees or Interests – Check all that apply. Thanks!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership (recruiting, recording)                     | <b>CAMPAIGN WORK:</b>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising and Event Planning                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Issues                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology (newsletter, website, Facebook) | <input type="checkbox"/> Door-to-door             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Bank               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations (publicity, liaison w/media)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Signs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archiving, Photography, Scrapbooking                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at Campaign HQ |

**Please list other clubs, other interests, or comments/questions on reverse of this application.**

#### Membership Dues: (Check one)

- ☐ **RENEWAL – \$30/yr.** (Renewal period: Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Renewal dues after Dec 31<sup>st</sup> - \$35.)
- ☐ **NEW – \$30/yr** (Joining Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> covers your membership dues for the following year.)
- ☐ **ASSOCIATE – \$15/yr** (For a male Republican **or** an active member of another LFRW club.)

**Paid by:** cash (\$\_\_\_\_\_) **OR** check (\$\_\_\_\_\_ check # \_\_\_\_\_)

**Make Check Payable To: RWSWL      Mail To: P.O. Box 754 Lake Charles, LA 70602**

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

*Revised September, 2013*