



# Lady Republican

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

## Senator Neil Riser

Neil Riser represents the Republican, Democrat, Libertarian and Independent taxpayers of District 32 as a member of the Louisiana Senate. The district stretches from Monroe to Alexandria to the Greater Baton Rouge area, encompassing much of central and Northeastern Louisiana and a small part of the Florida parishes. Senator Riser is a rock-solid conservative who has been unafraid to challenge the status quo and stand up to the political establishment. He is best known as the author of Louisiana's Second Amendment, a constitutional amendment passed by the state's voters in 2012 giving Louisiana citizens the strongest gun rights in America. Neil Riser is steadfastly pro-gun and anti-tax, and has been called the most conservative member of the state legislature. Neil is 100% pro-life, supports traditional marriage, and has fought for parental choice in education. He believes in the free market. He has been honored by the NRA, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the Louisiana Family Forum and many other conservative and good government organizations. Senator Riser is a strong defender of the United States Constitution. Hartwell Neil Riser, Jr. is 54 years old. He was born in 1962 in Columbia, Louisiana to Hartwell Riser, Sr. (1934–1985), and the former Lillian Gore, now Mrs. Lillian R. Gentry of Monroe, wife of Herschel Gentry, Jr. Neil began logging at age 14 and worked in the timber industry until age 23, taking breaks to attend school. He graduated from Caldwell High School in 1980. Louisiana's former Governor, John McKeithen, and former Secretary of State, Fox McKeithen, were also from Columbia and were family friends. Neil earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management in 1984 from Northeast Louisiana University (now the University of Louisiana at Monroe). He is president and owner of Riser Funeral Home. The Riser family has operated the business since 1934. He also serves as a board member of Caldwell Bank and Trust. He is a past president of Pelican State Life Insurance Company. Neil is married to the former Vicki Smith, the daughter of Glenn and Carolyn Smith of the Fort Necessity community in Franklin Parish. She taught at River Oaks School in Monroe. Neil and Vicki have two daughters, Emilie and Allison. Riser served as a member of the Republican State Central Committee during the late 1990's and became increasingly concerned about the direction of our nation. A few years later, he decided to become a citizen candidate for Louisiana Senate in what many considered a "long-shot" bid. He worked hard for 25 months and ultimately won the race. He was elected to the Louisiana Senate in November 2007, the first Republican elected in modern times in the heavily Democratic district. He has since worked closely with constituents of all political parties to fairly represent everyone in District 32. He has an open door policy and fights to protect children and the poor and elderly—those who may have a difficult time protecting themselves. He has fought hard to keep taxes low and to reform and improve education, key promises he made in his first election. Senator Riser is the only candidate for State Treasurer who has served on the State Bond Commission, which the new Treasurer will chair. In the Senate, he served four years as chairman of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee.



### *Newsletter Contributors*

#### Editor

Sarah Lavergne

#### Co-Editor

Sharon Denson

**Deadline for submissions is  
the 1st Thursday of the  
month.**

## Join us for Lunch

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Buffet Lunch-11:30 AM

General Meeting-12:00-1:00 PM

Reeves Uptown Catering

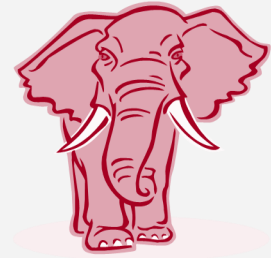
1639-B Ryan St. Lake Charles, LA

**Guest Speaker— Senator Neil Riser &  
Mayor Nic Hunter**

RSVP by Tuesday, May 23 2017

Marsha Spear—842-4220

# Announcements & Events



**Tuesday, May 23, Noon**  
Reservation deadline for luncheon meeting

**Thursday, May 25, 11:30 am**  
Monthly luncheon meeting

**Friday, May 19 & 26, 2017, 6:00 pm**  
Republican Women of SWLA Social at "Downtown at Sundown" on Ryan Street in front of the Court House

**RPEC Meetings**  
Third Thursday of Every Month  
5:30 pm Central Library, 2nd Floor

**City Council Meetings**  
1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month - 5:30, City Council Chambers, 326 Pujo St.

**Police Jury Meetings**  
1st Thursday of each month, 5:30  
1015 Pithon St.

## Member of the Month— Beth Morris



Beth Morris is our May member of the month. After retiring from the Calcasieu Parish School Board, Beth found an announcement in the paper, some eighteen years ago, about the Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana's monthly meeting. She says she got involved right away and the "rest is history".

A day in the life of Beth Morris is fun, she says. She is up early drinking her morning coffee with her husband, her hero of fifty-three years. Then it's off for more coffee, a luncheon or function for a variety of different things.

A fun fact you may not know about Beth is that she worked in Washington, D.C. before she was married. She worked out of the Pentagon in the War Gaming Department.

Her favorite thing about the Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana is that it's an organization where one can be as busy as she wants whether she is young or "GOLD". She loves seeing young women in leadership roles in our club who are doing such a great job.

The Republican Women are so excited to have such an awesome member like Beth and appreciate her hard work and efforts to make our organization great!

### Welcome New Members!

**Dalal Poche-Pauley**  
**Becky Chaumont**  
**Lynne Davis**

**Cathy Brady**  
**Mallory Padgett**  
**Cathy Parnell**

**Christie Pauley**  
**Debbie Stutes**

## Mayor of Lake Charles, Nic Hunter

The Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana would like to congratulate the new mayor of Lake Charles, Nic Hunter. Nic has served Lake Charles as an elected official on the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and as a small business owner of Harlequin Steaks & Seafood. Nic is the first Republican mayor of Lake Charles and we are looking forward to seeing the great plans he has for the city. Our new mayor won fifty-six percent of the votes against Wilford Carter and ran a clean campaign founded on integrity and humility. His vision to help our city and community grow together inspired people to hit the polls and vote Hunter. During his campaign he talked about important issues such as lakefront development and utilizing our assets to generate revenue, taxes and the city's budget, our area's infrastructure and roads, and his commitment to our city's firefighters and law enforcement personnel. Another key point in his campaign was drainage and the need for developing solutions to alleviate the burden on our drainage and sewer systems. With large improvement projects and better use of green space he feels we can solve several issues that Lake Charles is facing. He is passionate about our city's participation in recycling and providing all Lake Charles citizens an opportunity to get involved. He is committed to seeing Lake Charles grow and succeed and the Republican Women of SWLA will support him in his efforts. If you would like to know more about Nic Hunter and his campaign please visit [nicformayor.com](http://nicformayor.com).



## Marie Key Martin Scholarship Recipients

Each year the Republican Women of Southwest Louisiana awards the Marie Key Martin Scholarship to a high school senior girl. This year we are proud to announce we were able to award two scholarships. This was made possible due to the amazing fundraising efforts throughout the year and the most recent presidential election. Harleigh Smith and Savannah Andrews were both awarded a one-time scholarship of \$500.00. Harleigh is a 2017 Sulphur High School graduate planning to attend McNeese State University in the fall to pursue a degree in marketing. Savannah is a 2017 graduate of Sam Houston High School in Moss Bluff. She plans to attend Brigham Young University to study European studies, history, and political science. Both of these young ladies had outstanding accomplishments and truly represented what our organization is about. There were several qualified candidates and we would like to thank everyone who applied.



Harleigh Smith



Savannah with her parents



# 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) and 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 and national clubs when we annually send in our membership rolls and dues. Our objectives are to:

- 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

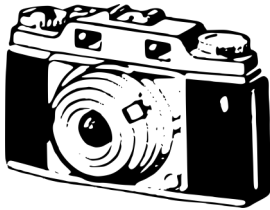
Follow us on Instagram  
@republicanwomenofswla

Follow us on Twitter @RWofSWLA



Check out our Website!

[www.rwsvla.com](http://www.rwsvla.com)



# April's Luncheon





# 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Committees or Interests – Check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <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         |

**Please list other clubs, other interests, or comments/questions.**

### 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)

**Make Check Payable To: RWSWLA Mail To: PO BOX 754 Lake Charles, LA 70602**

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