

From Our President



With the all-important elections for the year 2024 fast approaching let us get ready and do our part. This year we are off to a great start with our club already reaching over one hundred members. Let us start now with the RWOF Membership Drive of 2023 and get prepared for election year 2024 with huge membership numbers. We are the grassroots effort and we need large numbers.

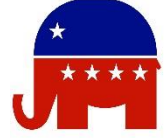
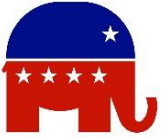
Spread the word and invite fellow Republicans to our meetings. Recruit and Renew! At our upcoming meeting I will have available at the front desk some brochures that will aid you in introducing our club to prospective members. Take some with you and solicit new members. Remember the person that brings in the most members will receive membership dues paid for 2024.

This year we are also planning an event centered on a membership drive. More information will follow soon. Please share any ideas you have with me or Kathy Alexander, 2nd VP Membership.

**“Decisions are made by those who show up”
Speak up and make our voices stronger
Activate-Advocate-Achieve
Keep Florida Red**

Deborah Stone,
President, RWOF





1st V.P. DESLEY PARKER

**BEN ANDERSON
OKALOOSA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR**

During Ben’s tenure as Tax Collector, he has implemented vast changes in technology and innovation to better serve and benefit the taxpayers of Okaloosa County. Under his



leadership, his office collects and disburses more than \$350 million and processes more than 650,000 transactions yearly.

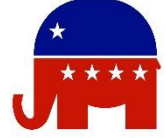
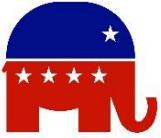
Ben and his office have been recognized annually by the Florida Tax Collector’s Association with prestigious awards in Financial Operations for work they have done since 2012 (Ben’s first full year), receiving first the Excellence Award followed by the Legacy Award for consecutive years of fiscal excellence.

Nominees from throughout the State are judged by a five-member panel in the areas of Audit Clear of any Findings, Budgeting Expertise, Competency, Innovation and Automation, and Customer Focus.

Ben is active in the Florida Tax Collector’s Association, where he has held numerous positions. Most notably, he was the 2019 State President. He championed various initiatives, including #TAX (829) which is an abbreviated dialing code for mobile phones user to call the Tax Collector’s Office directly.

Ben Anderson was appointed Okaloosa County Tax Collector in 2011 and has since been reelected in 2012, 2016, and 2020. He also established the Virtual Resource Network, providing much needed continuing education to tax collector employees and offices around the State.

Through his initiatives, more than 1,600 personnel from 44 counties have completed over 24,000 online courses. After 40 years in private business, Ben approaches the management and operations of the Tax Collector Office as a business – he asks, “can we do it better and more efficiently, and can we save money?”. After all, it is the government’s duty and responsibility to serve its citizens with the highest level of integrity, efficiency, and professionalism.



KATHY FOSTER, HOSPITALITY

Our MARCH Menu:

House Salad with Ranch & Vinaigrette
Rolls & Butter

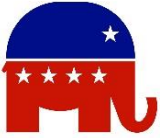
Baked Fish w/Lemon Garlic Butter Sauce
Teriyaki Glazed Chicken Breast
Julienne Vegetables and Rice Pilaf
Dessert: Mini Key Lime Pies

The cost is \$20 for members and \$22 for guests. Please respond with a Yay or Nay by **Friday, February 24th**, as reservations are required.
Contact Kathy Foster @ fosterpk@gnt.net

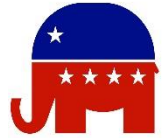


2nd V.P. KATHY ALEXANDER

with new members: Ruth Aliotti, Maria McClean, Jean Reif, and Cheryl Rohan;
back row: Kelly Fuller and Gloria Wilson. Welcome everyone!



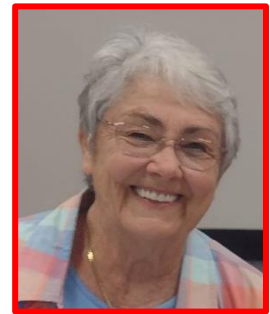
RWOF TRUMPET



**February Free Lunch Winner:
Pat Ell**

**Free Twisted Grape Certificate:
Ellen Goodson**

**50/50: Joan
Ropka**



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

**Kelley Fuller
Sonia Weikel
Athena Marler
Emily Barber
Monika McKee
Karen Neighbors
Mary Simmons
Deborah Stone**

**March 1
March 3
March 10
March 11
March 12
March 24
March 25
March 25**

**Ellen Deckert
Cindy Touchstone**

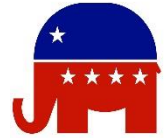
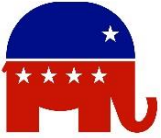
**March 26
March 28**

Associate Members

**Kathleen Baird
Lou Villanacci
David Burwell**

**March 4
March 17
March 30**



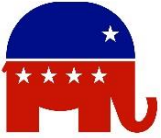


**ANNA PEELE
COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

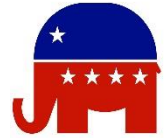
Laurie Hood, founder of Alaqua Animal Refuge and our guest speaker for February was very pleased with our donations for the Refuge. Cat and dog food, treats, toys, bedding, cleaning supplies and a \$110 donation of cash and a check were loaded into Laurie’s SUV for a trip to Alaqua. Thanks to everyone who contributed donations for the animals.

2023 Committee Members: Anna Peele, Ellen Goodson, Karen Rose, Linda Gail Martin





RWOF TRUMPET



Are you looking for your dream job
Or changing your career?



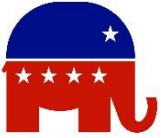
\$2,000 Non-Traditional Student Collegiate Scholarship

Deadline: April 28, 2023

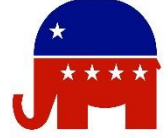
Non-traditional students are classified as:

- A woman of any age who may not have gone directly to college after high school or received a GED.
- A woman who has experienced an interruption in higher education and is now returning to complete a degree.
- A Woman of any marital or family status who has a financial need for assistance.
- A woman who is a resident of Okaloosa County.
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**Sponsored by Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated
Contact RWOFUSA.org to download the application and return to:
bchappellfwb@gmail.com
Before April 28, 2023.**



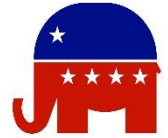
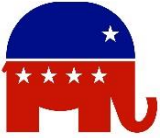
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Thursday, March 9, 2023
5:30 gathering (BYOB)
6:00 pm Dinner - Games
Preservation Hall
17 Industrial Street NW
Food, Fun, Prizes
\$30 per person
sponsored by
Republican Women of Okaloosa
Federated

Questions?
Tammy Magee
850-496-1142 cell





MARTHA GORECKI, CHAPLAIN

Our March message is: Whose Side

Words from:

**“The Father of the American Space Program”
Werner Von Braun**

Prominent rocket scientist of the twentieth century became Director of NASA

- Use modern tools of science to improve humans
- The Bible plays a part – becomes an up-to-date book
- Knowledge and laws of nature enables us to fly to the moon
- Also destroy our planet – atom bomb
- Use of science
- Get guidelines from the moral law of God

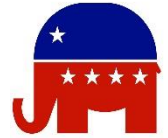
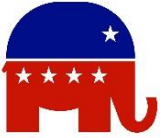
Our Song: This Is My Country



My praise goes out to Kari Lake for her refusal to stand for anything other than our true National Anthem. *Maddie*

Former Arizona Republican gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake has broken

her silence regarding her decision not to stand for the so-called “black national



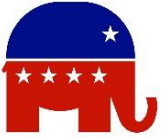
anthem” that was played ahead of Super Bowl LVII and only stand for the actual anthem.

A picture of Lake sitting during “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” which was played prior to the National Anthem ahead of the game, went viral on social media. She has received both good and bad responses but through them all she has remained steadfast.

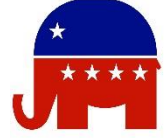
Since when did we decide that we needed more than one National Anthem sung at the Super Bowl, or anywhere else for that matter? We didn’t, but it appears that we will let them get away with anything! Will they ever stop insulting us with the nonsense that gets displayed on the football field? It’s no longer “family entertainment”, it’s more like going to a strip club with everyone shaking their booty and other body parts. When are the fans going to protest this kind of in-your-face garbage? The NFL has been trying to change the way Americans think and believe for some years now; Colin Kaepernick and his taking the knee on the field in protest. Everyone should remember what followed because of that. Beyonce and her anti-police half-time fiasco. Rhianna followed in her footsteps, she admitted to watching Beyonce’s performance from 2016 to get ideas. Where are the Marching Bands?

Well, I got that off my chest. If you think I this is an over reaction to what’s happening in our country, you haven’t been paying attention. I hope and pray that it can be fixed before it’s too late. The current administration is working overtime to destroy this country. When will we say “Enough” and push back? Need I say more?





RWOF TRUMPET



REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF OKALOOSA FEDERATED MISSION STATEMENT

To bring women together to educate about Local, State and National issues; to improve the quality of life in Okaloosa County through political activity and community involvement; to advance the participation of Republican women in all areas of our political system; and to encourage and support qualified Republican women to seek and win public office.

The “**RWOF TRUMPET**” is brought to you by

Past President Maddie McNeal

Submit articles to:

Smile4maddie2@gmail.com

Cell: 850-259-0292

Check out our RWOF Website: RWOFUSA.ORG

Like us on Facebook: Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated

Florida Federation of Republican Women – FFRW.net

National Federation of Republican Women – NFRW.org

