

RWOF President Deb Stone Transition

After many years of holding our monthly meeting at the Wyndham Garden Hotel and Conference Center, we will no longer be able to meet at this location. Having completed 20 years of dedicated service, Michele Anders, the Food and Beverage Director, has decided to leave her role. We all value the great relationship and service that Michelle has provided RWOF over the many years. We wish her great success in her new endeavors! After much discussion with the owner, he has decided she will not be replaced and the hotel will no longer offer these services. All reservations were canceled immediately.

Kathy Foster, our hospitality director, is working tirelessly to find a new location that will fit our needs. Currently we have booked The Clubhouse Grill at Fort Walton Beach Golf Club for the upcoming April 2 meeting. We are looking at several possibilities for a new permanent home. We will keep you updated.

What can our membership do to help?

Please bear with us during this transition. We will have a great location before we know it. Change is always hard, especially since we have always had such a great location and team. You can help by attending each meeting, bringing guests and new members. Let us keep our membership up in order to support the new location. Let us use this challenge as a time for renewal and recommitment to making our organization the best Republican group in the nation!

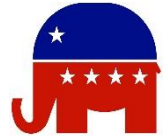
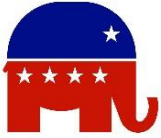
At our upcoming Wednesday April 2nd meeting will be held at The Clubhouse Grill, 1955 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, FL. I hope by this meeting we will have an update on our future plans. Kathy Foster is working diligently to find a facility that will offer the same quality and type of service we have always enjoyed.

The Good News

The United States of America has a Republican House, Senate and Presidency and they are making great progress toward improving our nation. Though facing many obstacles, President Trump is keeping his promises and is making the first 100 days the most productive in history.

Let us help by continuing to spread the message and getting more people involved. We need to work now to make sure Republicans maintain control during next year's midterms.

Deb Stone, President RWOF



APRIL SPEAKER

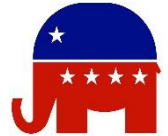
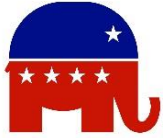
Northwest Florida State College President-Elect Mel Ponder

Through the many roles I have held serving our community, I have had a close relationship with Northwest Florida State College. I have seen firsthand the College's commitment to transforming lives through post-secondary education throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties, as well as its service to the entire Northwest Florida Region. I felt led to this opportunity, because our College is poised to ignite the vision of leading in post-secondary educational opportunities, charter school operations, workforce and economic development, and excellence in both athletics and arts. It was an honor to step into the leadership of the College in January, joining the tremendous team serving our students, their families, and our community.



My background and experience in both the private and public sectors support me in bringing the College's mission and vision to life. I look forward to joining the great work of the College by furthering its ties to our community, which has been a core characteristic of the College since its beginning. I intend to build on our existing partnerships with the Walton and Okaloosa School Districts, State University System regional partners, our military installations, public and private economic development organizations, and employers throughout the region.

Each student that comes to the College brings with them dreams, talents, and skills, whether they reach the College through Collegiate High School, dual enrollment, traditional enrollment after high school, or workforce training. The College offers these students many training opportunities to make their dreams a reality. First-generation College students will find faculty, fellow students, and student success team members to be their support system. Other students come to the College pursuing a second career or additional training and attain the skills and confidence to step into their future roles as nurses, EMTs, welders, or business owners. Still, more students make the College their home for two years, securing an associate in arts or associate in science, which allows them to seamlessly continue their journey to bachelor's and graduate degrees in the university system. We must be passionate to tell the good news of our institution, meeting students where they are, and equipping them with the tools needed to empower them and transform their futures.



During my tenure as College President, I will celebrate and build on the programs we offer to grow enrollment and ensure students complete the programming they begin. We will work closely with our local, state, and federal representatives to secure critical appropriations and funding for College operations, and we will pursue grant opportunities to position the College for forward-looking, purposeful, sustainable growth well into its future. Continuing the legacy of the College, we will also maintain the excellence of Raider Athletics and the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, which foster student growth and engagement with our community.

With the honor of leading the College’s work alongside our faculty and staff, my desire is to bring hope and possibilities to all those in our service area who are striving to improve their lives through attaining educational and workforce skills. My hope is that every student in the region, when looking for an educational partner to their success, will come and take part in the exciting opportunities taking place at Northwest Florida State College.



KATHY FOSTER, HOSPITALITY

APRIL – THE CLUBHOUSE GRILL

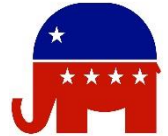
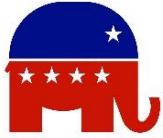
For more than 13 years we have enjoyed delicious meals and experienced top-notch service from Michelle Anders and her staff at the Wyndham Garden Resort. Unfortunately, the owner of Wyndham has opted to discontinue catering at his Conference Center due to Michelle’s retirement. In the last week we have contacted over a dozen venues seeking a new meeting place. The Clubhouse Grill at

the Fort Walton Beach Golf Course, 1955 Lewis Turner Boulevard, 32547, can accommodate us on April 2. (whew!)

You may select one item as your plated luncheon. You will then be given a corresponding chip to take to your seat. The choices will be:

- Baked Ziti**
- Philly Cheesesteak with Potato Salad**
- Cashew Chicken Salad (this is gluten free)**
- Chicken Salad Croissant with Fruit**

The cost is \$25 for members and guests. Reservations are due by **Friday, March 28. We ask for your patience and understanding during this transition as the May 7th meeting will require a much larger venue.**



**KATHY ALEXANDER
2nd VP/MEMBERSHIP**

Drawings for March:

- Twisted Grape – Ellen Deckert**
- Free Lunch – Gay Gallian**
- 50/50 – Kathy Alexander**
- JoJo Handbag – Linda Gail Martin**



New Member for February:

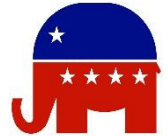
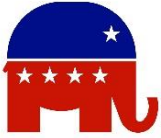
Joann Staub

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- Elizabeth Kulow – Apr 2**
- Robin Baker – Apr 4**
- Jackie Pilcher – Apr 6**
- Camille Webster – Apr 12**
- Ashlee Olbricht – Apr 19**
- Christie Pratt – Apr 27**

Members – 124 Associates – 17 Total – 141 2025 Renewals – 116



MARTHA GORECKI, CHAPLAIN

Message: "EASTER"

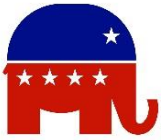


- Written by a Navy pilot at the time of the Vietnam War – 1965
- Was returning from a mission and landed on an aircraft carrier as dawn was breaking.
- He noticed something unusual as he was heading toward the briefing room.
- The flight deck was not bustling with people and moving aircraft
- Sailors were setting up chairs on the flight deck
- Then realized that Easter morning was dawning
- The admiral and chaplains had given permission to observe sunrise service
- This would be a very private time for the ship and crew
- Realized this situation would be experienced by Christians at their particular sunrise all around the world
- This particular dawn was speaking to Christians of their most fundamental belief that "The Lord has risen!"

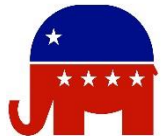
Our Song will be "Battle Hymn of the Republic"



HAPPY
EASTER
EVERYONE!



RWOF TRUMPET



WOMEN VETERANS MONUMENT GRANITE BENCH

The RWOF would like show our lasting gratitude to the Women Veterans of Okaloosa County by installing a granite bench at the Women Veterans Monument Park on Okaloosa Island!

We need your help in purchasing the bench!
Please consider donating to this important cause!

**Our fundraising goal is \$2,000
Please donate today!**

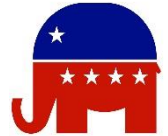
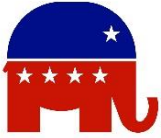
*Questions Contact Deborah Stone (205) 454-8649 or
Sheryl Lauria (518) 986-4494*



Women Veteran Memorial Park



SAMPLE



From the Desk of Past President Maddie McNeal:

Thank God, President Donald J. Trump, and Elon Musk (in that order) for seeing through all the insanity that our country experienced over the last four years. Our lives changed drastically, and not in a good way. We were forced to believe things we didn't believe, to do things we didn't want to do. We became indentured slaves to our government...all this took place because the Democrat party hated Donald J. Trump and were doing everything they could to keep him from ever becoming President again. So, how'd that work for them?? They showed themselves as the America hating party they had become since the Obama years. They allowed Joe Biden to remain in office knowing his mental capacity had diminished to the point of being unable to complete a sentence. Imagine, he was still the Commander in Chief of our Military! If that doesn't scare you, they threw him under the bus and put forth a complete idiot as their choice for President to run against Donald J. Trump. Their own party had no choice in the selection of Kamala Harris, they knew she wasn't the brightest bulb in the chandelier but they praised her with no shame.

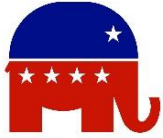
November 5th, 2024 was the turning point when the American citizens said "Enough is Enough" and elected Donald J. Trump as our 47th President with a mandate to "FIX THIS MESS". We are finally being ushered back into a world of compassion, common sense, morality, civility, law abiding, America loving patriotic citizens. President Trump has put together a collection of top officials that share his MAGA wish for this country. Collectively, they have done more in these two months than other administrations accomplished in four years, even eight years. The economy is bouncing back, gas prices are coming down, our border has become secure, oil is again being produced, foreign countries are once again seeing the United States as the great power it once was. WOW!

For me, one of the best things about all of this is that the Republican House and Senate have finally grown a backbone. I was so tired of them bending over for the Democrats every whim. Gone are the days of not fighting back to the demands of the WOKE ideology. I never understood how that happened, but it did. Now that the curtain has been pulled back on that insanity, I'm sure it will never happen again.

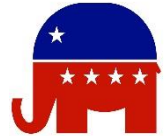
On another topic, Welcome Back to Earth! Elon Musk, at the direction of President Donald J. Trump, brought back the astronauts that have been stranded in space for nine months, on a mission that was supposed to last eight or nine days. Elon had offered to rescue these astronauts while Biden was in office, Joe didn't want him to do it. Imagine that! Actually, it's not too hard to imagine, after all, there were Americans on that mission. If illegals were involved, they'd be back in a flash, given luxury hotel accommodations, new phones, new clothes and credit cards. Not anymore!

Bad news for Hunter and Ashley Biden - while vacationing in South Africa they were notified that President Trump ended their U.S. Secret Service Protection, immediately! Couldn't happen fast enough for me. Thirty-one Secret Service Agents for the two of them. How ridiculous was that?

Until next time.....



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

Immediate Past President & FFRW District 1 Representative
Maddie McNeal

(now Representing Okaloosa, Escambia, Walton, Bay, Washington, Holmes & Santa Rosa Counties)

Submit articles to:

Smile4maddie2@gmail.com

Cell: 850-259-0292

Check out our RWOF Website: www.RWOF.ORG

Like us on Facebook: Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated

Florida Federation of Republican Women – FFRW.net

National Federation of Republican Women – NFRW.org

