



WASHINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 1, 2018 11:30 am
Abbey Inn, 1129 S Bluff Street, St. George, UT

Welcome:

President Lesa Sandberg called the meeting to order at 11:48 am. The prayer was offered by Celeste Maloy and the pledge was led by Brock Belnap. Dignitaries present were: Courtney Brinkerhoff representing Senator Hatch, Bette Ariel representing Senator Mike Lee, Adam Snow representing Representative Chris Stewart, Washington County Commissioner Dean Cox, Washington County Attorney Brock Belnap, Washington County Assessor Tom Durrant, Washington County Republican Party Chair Jimi Kestin, WCRP vice Chair Celeste Maloy, WCRP Treasurer John Olsen, St. George City Mayor Jon Pike, St. George City Council members Michele Randall, Bette Ariel and Ed Baca. Kimberly Hancock confirmed that a quorum was present and official business could be conducted.

Business:

- A **motion** to adopt the 2018 budget was made by Michele Randall, seconded by Judy Houston and approved by the body.
- WCRW Funds reported as \$19,668.99 in our business account.
- Membership report was given by 1st VP over Membership Kimberly Hancock. There are 45 Members, 11 Associate Members and 30 Gem Members. Member prizes were awarded. Charlotte Devlin acknowledged February birthdays.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 12 - WCRW Legislative Day at the Capitol. Lisa Thorpe reported on this event coming up. It will be from 10-2. It includes lunch with the Legislators and a tour of the Capitol. (see attached flyer)
- March 1 – WCRW Luncheon Jason Chaffetz
- March 20 – Caucus Meetings
- April 5 – WCRW Luncheon. Legislative Forum at Santa Clara
- April 14 – County Convention at the Washington County Fairgrounds
- April 21 – Utah State Convention at the Salt Palace 8:00am to 2:30 pm
- May 3 – WCRW Luncheon Sean Reyes at Abbey Inn
- June 7 – WCRW Luncheon Hildale Mayor Donia Jessop at the Alumni House
- June 28 – Utah Primary Election

Legislative Report:

- Bette Arial. Utah House Speaker Greg Hughes is not running this year. Senate President Wayne L Niederhauser is also not running. Zion National Park is redesigning their entrance.
- Charlotte Devlin reported on some of the bills at the State Legislative session. HB43 passed 70-0 protecting blood being drawn without consent. HB38 Reduced the days of local fireworks. HB161 made it no longer necessary to have a copy of registration in your car.

Spotlight:

Cleo Atkin spotlighted WCRW Membership Chair Kimberly Hancock. Kimberly is from St. George. She graduated from Dixie State University with a degree in Computer Technology. She and her husband Michael have two beautiful little girls. She now works at the Washington County IT department in the attorney's office.

Introduction of our quest speakers by 1st VP Courtney Brinkerhoff.

- County Attorney Brock Belnap graduated from Dixie State and BYU Law School. He has been practicing law for over 20 years with most of that time spent in the county attorney's office. He was a deputy county attorney before becoming county attorney 11 years ago. He has prosecuted 1000's of criminal cases including serious felony cases; murder, rape and child abuse, to name a few. He was instrumental in establishing the drug court, the mental health court and recently the veteran's court.
- Deputy Attorney Eric Clarke is the lead civil attorney dealing with land issues. Eric also graduated from BYU Law School.
- Deputy Attorney Celeste Maloy studied at Southern Utah University, BYU and J. Rueben Clark Law School.

Guest Speakers: Highlights of County Attorney's Office Presentation:

- It was hard to make changes with hostile Federal Agencies put in by the Obama administration. Obama administration wanted BLM 2.0, which would have made Environmental agencies equal to local government. Most public lands are run by Federal Employees not elected. Strategy changed with a Republican President. Trump has rolled back many regulations. We must strike while the iron is hot. Get legislation through at State and Federal level locked in while there are friendlier attitudes in the administration. Next election will have huge consequences. We must keep issues at the forefront.
- The management of public lands mindset can be that local control will abuse land and turn it into a parking lot. State and local control will demonstrate it can do a better job. SITLA owns some but most public lands are managed by Federal employees who are not elected. Congressman Stewart asked for input from this office. Celeste Maloy sent him the information that he used to present case to stop BLM 2.0. Lowry Snow presented a bill that the state must approve National Monuments.
- Northern Corridor is a work in progress. Commissioner Dean Cox has worked with BLM and UDOT to provide a working plan. We are closer to approval than we have ever been.
- RS2477 is a lawsuit to keep access to country roads on public lands.
- Beaver Dam Wash will add more trails and more campsites.
- Washington County has over 160,000 residents

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by WCRW Secretary Judy Houston