



WASHINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 5, 2018 11:30 am
Santa Clara City Hall, Santa Clara, UT

Welcome:

- President Lesa Sandberg called the meeting to order at 11:48 am.
- The prayer was offered by Sharon Simmons and the pledge was led by Carol Bracken. Carol gave a short story of the prison ships operated by the British during the Revolutionary War. Over 10,000 of these prisoners refused to pledge allegiance to the British to gain freedom.
- Dignitaries present were: Bette Ariel representing Senator Mike Lee, Senator Evan Vickers District 28, Senator Don Ipson District 29, Rep. Travis Seegmiller District 62, Rep. Brad Last District 71, Rep. Lowry Snow District 74, Rep. Walt Brooks District 75, Washington County Commissioner Dean Cox, Washington County Attorney Brock Belnap, Sherriff Cory Pulsipher, Washington County Republican Party Chair Jimi Kestin, WCRP vice Chair Celeste Maloy, St. George City Council member Bette Ariel. Running for office, Gil Almquist and Mary Burkett. Charlotte Devlin confirmed that a quorum was present and official business could be conducted.

Business:

- A **motion** to approve the minutes from the WCRW March Luncheon was made by Judy Houston, seconded by Judy Bozeman and approved by the membership
- A **motion** to approve the audit was made by Bette Ariel, seconded by Diane Hickman and approved by the membership
- WCRW Funds reported as \$18,920.84 in our business account.
- Membership report was given by Charlotte Devlin in the absence of Membership Chair Kimberly Hancock. There are 77 Members, 21 Associate Members and 44 Gem Members. Member prizes were awarded.
- Charlotte Devlin acknowledged April birthdays.

Spotlight:

Cleo Atkin spotlighted Senator Don Ipson. Don grew up in St. George riding his bike on Red Hill. He served in the Utah House of Representatives since 2008. In 2016 he was elected to the Utah Senate. He sponsored legislation to transition Dixie State to university status. But he may be best remembered for cooking chicken for the entire Senate!

Guest Speakers the Sunshine Caucus

by President Lesa Sandberg.

Senator Don Ipson: Worked on SB 80 to amend requirements for vehicles with exempt license plates to annually renew registration and several other bills to do with crime reporting and law enforcement protection.

Senator Evan Vickers: He became the chair of the Executive Appropriations Committee because the former Chair had health issues right before the session began. He is also on several Education committees. He said that education changes lives. Utah has the best education savings account. He helped implement an \$800,000 scholarship for the Technical schools.

Representative Travis Seegmiller: Professor of law at DSU. He replaced Jon Stanard in District 62 after the session had begun. He was elected at a special caucus meeting on a Monday night and was put to work on the following Tuesday (Valentine's Day). The Governor met with him in the morning and 5 minutes before the voting he sat at his new desk. He described it like being dropped out of an airplane with a parachute and the American flag. He worked around the clock to become familiar with the bills that were being voted on.

Representative Brad Last: Has been working hard for us for 15 years since 2003. He became the Vice Chair of the Executive Appropriations Committee working with Senator Vickers. All bills with budget issues came to them. He worked on the Fiscal Year Appropriations Act budgeting funds for support of the state government. Lowry Snow said having Brad serving on these important committees helps Southern Utah.

Representative Lowry Snow: He said he always thinks of the people he represents when he signs bills. He worked on bills to do with Juvenile justice and transferring property at death without a lawyer. He is working on the Point of the Mountain Development Commission in relocating the prison.

Representative Walt Brooks: He has been through two sessions now. He was our newest Legislator until Travis Seegmiller took his place. He worked on the Youth Protection Amendment. This would protect teens ages 16 thru 18 from being forced into a sexual relationship. Parents rights should be protected but not at the abuse of a child.

Questions and comments:

Ipson: Buckshot Caucus is simply a social group on Facebook. It has not agenda.

Snow: His first caucus was when Reagan was in. We were all happy to be Republicans. The leadership needs to bring us together. Republicans are strongest in numbers but weakest in division. Last: Utah tries to pay for all public buildings with cash. We had a 17 billion dollar budget. Prison was delayed. The Brian Head fire took 20 million. The Rainy Day fund is working.

Vickers: Gathered signatures and is going through caucus as the law allows. The SCC is trying to say he is not a Republican anymore.

Last: Supports putting the 10 cent a gallon gas tax for education on the ballot. It will be further explained there and the people can decide.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:10

Respectfully submitted by WCRW Secretary Judy Houston