

Washington County Republican Women

February 5, 2015

Regularly Scheduled Luncheon

Abbey Inn

Meeting called to order at 12:00 noon by President Judy Houston.

Dignitaries Announced:

Utah State Republican Party Chairman, James Evans  
Utah State Republican Party Director, Julian Babbitt  
Utah State Republican Party Vice Chair, Willie Billings  
Mayor Jon Pike  
Bette Aerial, Senator Lee's Office  
Yolie Klawitter, Senator Lee's Office  
WCRP Chairman, Nick Lang

Prayer: Jodi Borgeson

Pledge of Allegiance: Ski Ingram

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Lesa Sandberg  
Second: Mona Given  
Approved: Unanimously

Finance Report: LaStar Richins

Business Account: \$10,944.91  
Caring For America Account: \$1,055.14

Membership Report: Lesa Sandberg

Bette was awarded the gift for bringing a guest. Lesa announced that we have two diamond gem members; Cleo Atkin and LaRene Cox. Our membership hasn't increased as we would like it to this year and Lesa encouraged everyone to work hard and help increase membership. She reminded the membership that the organization must pay for 40 lunches whether or not we have that many present. Last year we had a deficit but we are getting off to a good start this year.

Spotlight: LaRene Cox

This new friend of mine and yours spent time on the Arizona Strip and Beaver Dam Wash during her childhood. Her dad was a cattleman/rancher, thus her love for beef. I am told that she rolls her eyes and ridicules anyone who eats bird (fowl meat) if beef is available on the menu.

She grew up in Santaquin and played basketball for Payson High School. After high school she graduated from SUU and began a career driving heavy equipment for road construction. She is certified as a special function officer in Law Enforcement and spent some time as a bailiff. After serving an LDS Mission in Chile she completed BYU Law School and now works in the Washington County Attorney's office.

She is a talented baker. At Thanksgiving, she and her sister make a ton of pies (like 3 per person).

She doesn't have a favorite movie but her favorite actor plays in the Sherlock Holmes series as well as Kahn in Star Wars. I'm guessing his name to be Benedict Cumberbatch.

She loves to read classic literature (reads quite a bit) and is active in her church where she serves as RS president.

She was campaign manager for Brock Belnap. We are happy to have Jodi Borgeson as our WCRW Historian.

#### Legislative Review:

Bette Arial praised recently deceased Speaker Becky Lockhart as a wonderful advocate for women.

She made mention that the Senate is working hard trying to pass balanced budget amendment, Keystone Pipeline Project and putting parents back in control of their children's education.

Quote: "Congress is the only deliberative branch of government where costs and consequences are explored; where the voter can know how their representatives stand on issues the president has changed this process all on his own." Senator Lee on the senate floor yesterday.

After 32 years of making amazing movies, at the age of 62, Cari Grant retired to raise his daughter Jennifer and they totally adored each other. There is nothing greater than raising our children.

Program and guest speaker, Chairman James Evans, was introduced by President Judy Houston.

James Evans has served in various leadership positions within the Republican Party over the past several years. He was elected as the first African-American Chairman of the Utah Republican Party back in 2013. Under his leadership, Utahan's sent Mia Love to Congress, making the state's federal delegation 100% Republican. The Utah Republican Party has also made significant gains in both state legislatures, securing historically large Republican majorities in both houses.

Immediately preceding his election to the State Chairmanship, James chaired the Utah Republican Party Constitution and Bylaws Committee. James also served for four years as the Chair of the Salt Lake County Republican Party, focusing on improving precinct participation, winning races in normally liberal districts.

In 2002, James was elected to the Utah State Senate from District 1, a traditional Democrat stronghold. As the only Republican to represent the district in nearly 3 decades, he showcased his ability to work across party lines and appeal to a diverse group of constituents. Additionally, he has served as a precinct, legislative, senate and region chair as well as a county, state, and national delegate.

James graduated from Tuskegee University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. After his undergraduate studies, he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as a navigator and was promoted to the rank of Captain. After the Air Force, James relocated to Utah and became a small business owner. He has lived in Utah for over 20 years and is proud to call the Beehive State home.

The Utah Republican Party is suing the state, asking a federal judge to declare changes made to Utah's nominating system, last year, unconstitutional. The party argues that the changes, which let candidates circumvent the party's nominating convention, deprive the party of its First Amendment right to free association and ability to choose its own candidates.

We have invited our Utah Republican Party Chair to address this subject. Please join me in welcoming Chairman James Evans.

*(Chairman James Evans complete transcript is attached)*

Chairman James Evans thanked the members for the invitation and explained the bill in question is called SB54.

Chairman Evans also thanked the ladies who served in the military stating he wished everyone could have the opportunity to serve. Especially if they

should get a chance to travel the world. When you travel you really see what's unique about America.

He stated that we oftentimes think of America in terms of our Government don't have the opportunity to experience its greatness which is our people, our individual efforts and abilities, optimism and outlook. Then if you multiply that by 300 million and that's what America is.

He commented that America is all underpinned by our freedoms and without that we won't have America as we know it. We're seeing some of those threats in the current president's administration where they believe the government is a better source of judgment than you, me, your neighbors and your parents; that somehow they know better how to run our lives than we do.

With that comment Chairman Evans led the presentation with the idea that the party should be able to make their own determinations as how the Republican Party selects its candidates.

He commented that from the party's perspective, the argument has not been about what should be done, but who gets to make that decision. Whatever those decisions are made, are the decisions that political parties, not the government, should make. After the question of who should make decisions for the Republican Party is resolved, we can continue with the discussion about how the party will adapt.

Some possible outcomes of this decision are:

- One path is a closed primary system but you don't have to register republican to be the republican nominee. So an unaffiliated person may go to the county clerk and say my preference is the Republican Ballot so sign me up to run as a republican even though I didn't affiliate as a republican. That would be a closed primary.
- Under the other path, the candidate would have to be a member of the Republican Party to run on the Republican ticket could gather unaffiliated signatures. So they would not need to get one Republican to sign their petition to get on the ballot.
- This could interrupt the party's ability to be able to hold itself accountable to its members and help insure that those members who want to seek the party's nomination are:
  - 1) Actually Republican, and
  - 2) Have an understanding of what their support of the Party's platform is which expresses Republican values and principles.

Other Party concerns about SB54:

- We have to make significant changes to our constitution so that our governing documents will be in complaisance with this new law.
- One part of the law says we have to be in compliance in our governing documents before we can execute
- Another part of it says all you have to do is submit a letter to the LG Office know that you plan to participate in the primary process under SB54.
- Our governing documents must allow us to do either.

Chairman Evans spoke of two bills that are moving forward in the legislature which will ask for a two year delay in the implementation of SB54, to year 2018. When these bills are assigned a number the party will begin lobbying at committee hearings and alerting the party leadership.

As far as the SB54 lawsuit, the chairman said it will be the state's burden to convince the judge why it is necessary for the state to reach in and substitute their judgment for the private party's judgment.

Another argument for the party is called Viewpoint Neutral which means when the legislature or any government entity makes changes, these changes must be viewpoint neutral.

*For example; if the court said we have to extend voting hours because we have too many people in line when the polls close and they come to the legislature and say, can you change the law to extend voting hours to 9:00 PM, then changing the voting hours because you are trying to accommodate the number of people voting, that's a viewpoint neutral act. However, if the clerks came and said we need you to change to hours to 9:00 PM because most of our republicans aren't getting to the polls until about that time and they change it to accommodate the fact that they want more republicans to vote, that is not viewpoint neutral and that's not constitutional.*

*So it appears, at least in our argument, the purpose for changing the nominating process has been because we have too many conservatives that have been elected to office and those who want to make the change want more moderates. Well, the way you get more moderates elected to office is by getting enough votes for them. You don't change the system then introduce another element to make it easier for moderates to win. And you certainly can't get the government to help you do that. That is basically what this comes down to.*

Chairman Evans answered questions that were taken from the audience.

(A full transcript and recording can be found on our website at  
[www.washingtoncountyrepublicanwomen.com](http://www.washingtoncountyrepublicanwomen.com))

President Judy Houston thanked Chairman James for coming and invited the Gem Members to stay and visit privately with the Chairman following the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:16 PM.