

Washington County Republican Women Regularly Scheduled Luncheon April 6th, 2017- Santa Clara City Building

President Lesa Sandberg welcomed the group and opened the meeting at 11:45 am. She recognized several dignitaries who were in attendance.

Christa Hinton gave the prayer. Judy McCoy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Lesa Sandberg announced the following:

On April 22nd, 2017 the Washington County Republican Party will hold its organizing convention and elect new party leadership. The convention begins at 9am at the Washington County fairgrounds.

WCRW's postcard campaign was successful. Our postcards were sent to the White House and expressed appreciation to President Trump.

WCRW's May luncheon will be May 4th at the Abbey Inn. We hope to hear from our new County Party leadership.

WCRW's June Luncheon will feature a very special guest. Lesa did not say who the person was but gave a clue that they are one of the most influential women to ever be involved in Utah politics.

Bette Arial made a motion to approve the March Luncheon Meeting Minutes which have been on our website since last month. The motion was seconded by Judy Houston. The minutes were approved unanimously. They will remain on the website.

At our May luncheon, our auditor will give our audit report.

Charlotte Devlin, Member at Large and Historian, gave the Spotlight Report. The Spotlight was Kristine Wagner.

LaRene Cox and Judy Houston led our membership report and membership drawing. We have 59 members total, 17 are associate members, 33 are Gem Members, and 8 of those Gem members are associates. Sharon Summers won member of the month. Betty Jo

McKinlay won the guest drawing. Members who had birthdays were given cookies.

Lesa then announced that an event was being held on Saturday April 8th entitled “Real Women Run”. The event is to help women get more involved in politics by running for elected office. Lesa invited any who were interested to attend. The cost for the seminar and lunch was \$15.

The Financial Report was provided by Treasurer LaStar Richins and printed on the meeting agenda. The WCRW General Account has \$17,195.77 and the Caring for America account has \$1,788.14 currently in it.

Becky Dunn and Cleo Atkin introduced our guest speakers at 12:15.

Our guests were “The Sunshine Caucus” (Senator Evan Vickers, Senator Don Ipson, Representative Brad Last, Representative Jon Stanard, Representative Walt Brooks, and Representative Lowry Snow).

These members of the State Legislature represent Washington County. The 2017 legislative session concluded approximately three weeks ago.

Becky gave each guest three minutes to discuss an issue they worked on that was important to them.

Senator Ipson reported that he was able to help secure funding for the new Health and Human Performance Building at Dixie State University.

Senator Vickers also reported on this effort and that he is enjoying his new role on the Higher Education Appropriations Committee. He feels he can be a great asset to Southern Utah on that committee.

Representative Stanard discussed his new role as vice chair of the Rules Committee. He talked about how influential this position is because it controls which bills have priority and which committee they are assigned to. He said he feels there is too much legislation introduced and he did not feel the need to add to it. He did not introduce any legislation

of his own. He did help the Dixie State University STEM Pipeline receive “permanent funding status”.

Representative Last mentioned that he works full-time for Dixie State in addition to being a legislator. He was excited about the new building and emphasized that it will help add to Dixie’s mantra of “Active Learning, Active Life”. DSU has a new PA program partnership with the University of Utah which will be housed in the new building. The building will also hold an Olympic size swimming pool. There is not another pool like this in our area, making St. George a perfect place for large scale swim meets. Rep. Last talked about how that would help our economy.

Representative Brooks was the vice chair of the Infrastructure Committee. It was his first session and he enjoyed the learning process. He commented that the Dixie State building is the only building project being considered in higher education that will generate its own revenue.

Representative Snow welcomed us to his hometown, Santa Clara. He worked with Senator Ipson on a bill to get another district court judge here in Washington County. The court has been bogged down with a large caseload and more staffing was severely needed. The effort was successful. Rep. also passed a bill for juvenile justice reform. Amongst other things, the bill sought to keep our young people in the home whenever possible. He also worked on a domestic violence bill that made strangulation a domestic abuse crime. He acknowledged that it is surprising this was not already the case in Utah law. He was proud to see more funding go to public education and mentioned that he thinks very highly of public education teachers, especially because he is married to one. He was also glad that relationships between Utah’s republicans and Utah’s democrats are good.

At 12:30 Becky opened the panel to questions from the floor.

The luncheon adjourned at 1:05 pm.