

Washington County Republican Women Regularly Scheduled Luncheon May 1st, 2017- Abbey Inn

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

- Bette Arial (Sen. Lee and St. George City Council)
- Courtney Brinkerhoff (Sen. Hatch)
- Dean Cox (Washington Co. Commissioner)
- Adam Snow (Congressman Stewart)
- Victor Iverson (Washington Co. Commissioner)
- Don Ipson (State Senator)

Courtney Brinkerhoff gave the prayer. Sandy Atkin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bette Arial made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes, which have been posted on the WCRW website. Carole Bracken seconded the motion and the minutes were adopted after a unanimous vote.

The Financial Report was printed on the agendas for people to see. The general account has \$17,195.77 and the Caring for America account has \$1,788.14.

Lesa announced that the following people have been identified to be on the nominating committee for next year's WCRW Executive Board:

LaStar Richins (nominated to be committee chair), LaRene Cox, Judy Houston, Charlotte Devlin, Penny Barben.

Lesa entertained a motion for the body to approve these nominees. Cleo Atkin made the motion and Courtney Brinkerhoff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bette Arial gave the spotlight report. The spotlight was Sandy Atkin. Sandy is a relatively new member to WCRW. She is a BYU graduate and retired teacher. She is a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers organization. She enjoys reading, playing the piano, drawing (especially baby animals), humanitarian projects, and cooking for others. She recently moved back to St. George last September and is in charge of the WCRW newsletter.

Bette Arial then invited Courtney Brinkerhoff and Adam Snow to the podium to help give the

Legislative Report.

Bette updated the group on Senator Lee's legislation to stop the Obama Administration's internet regulations and mentioned that President Trump signed an executive order directing the Department of the Interior to review all monuments declared in the past 21 years to determine the appropriate size and scope of the monuments.

Courtney updated the group on Senator Hatch's efforts to create a three-digit phone number nation-wide to have as a suicide/crisis/veteran's crisis hotline. The legislation would create a specific three-digit hotline number, provide 24/7 coverage of trained professionals to assist, and work to destigmatize mental health. Courtney then updated the group on the Executive Order calling upon the Dept. of the Interior to conduct a national monument review. She remarked that it was exciting to see President Trump speaking directly to Utahns and read the following quote from President Trump:

"Today I'm signing an executive order to end another egregious abuse of federal power and to give that power back to the states and to the people where it belongs...Last December alone, the federal government asserted this power (the Antiquities Act) over 1.35 million acres of land in Utah known as Bears Ears... Over the profound objections of the citizens of Utah. The Antiquities Act does not give the federal government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water and it's time to end this abusive practice...That's why I'm signing this executive order and directing Secretary Zinke to end these abuses and return control to the people, the people of Utah, the people of all the states, the people of the United States."

Courtney announced that Secretary Zinke will be in the state next week touring the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase National Monument.

Adam Snow announced that Representative Chris Stewart has been working on repealing federal regulations and reigning in the federal government through the appropriations process.

LaRene Cox gave the Membership Report. LaRene reported that WCRW has 65 members, 15 new members, 22 associate members (10 of which are Gem Members). WCRW has 34 Gem members total.

LaRene announced the following birthdays: Bonnie Harrington, Elizabeth Sharp, Nina Heck, and Mel McCoy. Mary Crandall joined as a Gold Member. Betty Jo McKinley won the membership drawing. Mary Crandall won the guest drawing. Keith Bozeman was the Associate of the Month.

Lesla Sandberg announced the following:

Our June luncheon speaker is a very special, surprise guest. Lesla says she has an incredible story and is the most influential woman in Utah politics to date.

The will not be a meeting in July or August. September will be our next meeting and it will be in the evening.

Lesla then introduced the guest speakers, newly-elected Washington County Republican Party Chairman Jimi Kestin and Vice-Chair Celeste Maloy. Jimi is originally from Las Vegas, but Dixie is home. He is the assistant VP at State Bank of Southern Utah and is a pastor in a local Four-Square church. He is involved, and instrumental, in the local interfaith coalition. Celeste is also from Nevada and has a background as a soil conservationist in Beaver, Utah. She then went to law school and now works on legal issues for Washington County and the Utah Association of Counties. Her specific focus is on public land issues.

Jimi remarked about how exciting the current time is to be involved in politics, especially to be involved in the Republican Party. He acknowledged his wonderful wife, Rikine, in the audience and said that she is his inspiration and biggest support. Jimi said that when Rikine and their family moved to Southern Utah they committed to not just moving, but becoming an integral part of their new community. They have fed thousands at their Friday Pantry and Sunday Feast events, put on by the church.

Jimi discussed his belief that it has never been more important for the Republican Party to re-find the unity that is in our diversity. There is room for all types of conservatives in the party.

Celeste focused on reaching out to millennials and ensuring that Republican Elected Officials receive support year-round, not just during election season. She talked about the need for increased connection between voters and elected officials.

The floor was opened for questions from the WCRW body. Many great comments and pieces of advice were given by WCRW members to the new party officials, Jimi and Celeste, regarding where they would like to see the party go. During the question and answer session, Adam Snow announced that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Obamacare Repeal and Replace bill.

The question and answer session continued until Lesla Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 1:06 pm.