



**Washington County Republican Women  
Regularly Scheduled Luncheon  
April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016- Red Lion Hotel**

The luncheon was called to order by President Judy Houston at 11:50 AM. President Houston announced and welcomed the following dignitaries:

- Spencer Cox, Lieutenant Governor
- John Dougall, State Auditor
- Melanie Bowen, Senator Hatch's Office
- Courtney Brinkerhoff, Senator Hatch's Office
- Adam Snow, Congressman Stewart's Office
- Alan Gardner, County Commissioner
- Corey Pulispher, County Sherriff
- Brock Belnap, County Attorney
- Michelle Randall, St. George City Council Member
- Robert Jensen, Washington County Republican Party Chairman
- Greg Hughes, Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, Guest Panelist
- Evan Vickers, State Senator, Guest Panelist
- Don Ipson, State Representative, Guest Panelist
- Jon Stanard, State Representative, Guest Panelist
- Brad Last, State Representative, Guest Panelist

President Houston also excused State Senator Steve Urquhart who could not attend due to legislative meetings and State Representative Lowry Snow who was attending a Red Cross event but came to our luncheon later.

The prayer was offered by Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox.

Representative Brad Last led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Houston announced the following:

- The Washington County Republican Convention is Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Our next luncheon will be May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 am at the Abbey Inn and will feature the candidates that make it through convention.
- The Utah Federation of Republican Women Spring Conference: "Red, White, and Bloom" is being held Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Utah State Capitol. The cost for the program and lunch is \$44 and a fundraiser called "It's in the bag" is being held.
- She referred the crowd to the handout for further information on upcoming events.

The finances report stated that the WCRW account had \$14,492.02 and the CFA account had \$1,374 dollars in it.

Lesla Sandberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> VC over Membership, handed out name badges and reported our current membership. She welcomed our guests and new members. They all stood and introduced themselves. Drawings for Kneaders' bread loaves were held.

Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox and State Auditor John Dougall spoke and gave brief reports. LaRene Cox introduced the panel members and explained how the process was going to work. Each legislator was going to take a few minutes to talk about one issue they were heavily involved in and then we were going to move into a question and answer segment.

Senator Vickers spoke about his medical marijuana bill, which enjoyed much press attention and was nicknamed "the other bill". Senator Madsen was also running a medical marijuana bill, but his bill was much more expansive and lenient than Senator Vickers' bill. Senator Vickers bill primarily called for more research into the matter and allowed only certain ailments to be treated with medicinal marijuana that contained low levels of THC.

Representative Last spoke about HB 276, which was authored by Representative Mike Noel of Kanab. This bill gave guidance and direction to the state on what it should do with lands that are currently federally owned in the advent that they are turned over to the state.

Representative Ipson spoke about HB 300 and the issue of police body cameras. He feels strongly that law enforcement should set its own policy.

Representative Stanard spoke about HB 301 which dealt with public school bus routes.

Speaker Hughes shed further light on the medical marijuana bill. He said that nobody ended up liking the compromise they had reached and the bill bailed. He stressed the importance of Utah taking a slow, and careful approach to this issue. He wants Utah's to have the health care they need, but wants to mitigate negative unintended consequences. He also addressed the issue of education funding and said that public lands make it really hard because we can't generate property tax on the majority of our state geographical area. He talked about transportation and other issues that will arise as we, the "pioneer state" continue to grow.

The legislators discussed their fondness for one another and shared that they have a strong comradery with each other as the "Sunshine Caucus".

LaRene moderated the Q&A portion of the meeting.

Questions addressed concerns about computer science infrastructure, computer science teachers, stem education, healthcare, Medicaid expansion, the so-called Medicaid "gap", SAGE testing, and a variety of other topics.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm