

Washington County Republican Women
Fall Social Minutes
Thursday, September 3, 2015 – Abbey Inn, St. George, UT

WCRW Fall Social GEM Members met at 6:00 PM in the breakfast room of Abbey Inn. They were served hors d'oeuvres during a private reception with Utah's Lieutenant Governor Spencer J. Cox and his wife Abby.



At 6:30 PM the GEM Members escorted the Lieutenant Governor to the main convention room where a lovely buffet dinner was being served.

President Judy Houston called the Fall Social to order at 6:50 PM.

Prayer was given by Chaplin Diane Adams followed by Abby Cox leading the group in the pledge of allegiance. We were honored to hear an acapella solo by Emma Abegg of the National Anthem.

1st VP, Diane Adams introduced our Keynote Speaker Spencer J. Cox.

LG Spencer Cox began with a complement to our WCRW about being one of the only counties with an active women's group. And he said that we have the most active women's group. He loves to see women get involved, in fact, it is a cause he is passionate about and something he has been very involved in. He has just started a group called the Women's Leadership Group up in SLC with former Senator Pat Gillins as the Director. This group will be working on some women's issues and they have asked him to serve on the board. They are looking specifically at how to get women more involved in decision making in the state from a business standpoint as well as a from a government standpoint. He stated that statistics continually show when women get involved in decision making the decisions are better.

The LG commented that of the 63 legislators in the Utah House only three are women. He said that our legislature is wonderful, they are making great decisions, however, just think of how much better those decisions might be if there were more women involved.

He spoke of a personal story where his wife became a surrogate mother for his sister and the emotional bonds it had in their relationships. He then added that the Governor had recently made

an executive order to remove funding from Planned Parenthood because of their performance of abortions and sale of fetus parts for profit. He said the country has gone down a slippery slope when the lives of those that can least protect themselves are not valued. When we value animals, and he said he loves animals, he lives on a farm with lots of animals but when we value human life something has gone wrong and it impacts everything we do in this country. He said that he knows Planned Parenthood does a lot of good things, and they are not trying to stop those good things, however there are other groups that do good things as well and those are the groups that they are going to support. Defunding is a very strong message that we believe in life. We know this isn't going to end Planned Parenthood, we get that, but we are going to send a strong message.

The LG stated that there are a lot of things we need help with in this country and too many of us are saying, "I could never do that." We need more good people to stand up for what is right.

He said, "Women can make the difference and I can tell you from experience, when a woman steps into the room and there is a political discussion going on, the tone of that discussion changes in a positive way! It doesn't mean you are weaker; you are stronger. It means you have the ability to deliver a message at a higher level of thinking". He went on to say, "What I am saying is this, if you thought you could never do it, please rethink that. Politics is not for everybody but everyone has something they can offer to politics".

The LG took questions from the membership and then was excused to attend an event for Honor Students at Tuachan where he will be speaking.

Following the Lieutenant Governor's speech the group was encouraged to participate in our Silent Auction. All proceeds will be added to the WCRW general budget.

Member Cleo Atkin introduced and the membership enjoyed an outstanding duet piano presentation by Emma Abegg and Jeniffer Redfearn.

At the conclusion of our meeting, President Judy Houston invited the group to take five minutes to check their bid on the silent auction item of choice then take it to Treasurer LaStar Richins where she would collect the money.

A very nice time was had by all and the meeting was adjourned.