

**Washington County Republican Women
Regularly Scheduled Luncheon
June 4, 2015 – Abbey Inn**

The luncheon was called to order by President Judy Houston at 11:55 AM. President Houston announced and welcomed the following dignitaries:

- **Guest Speaker Robert Jensen, WCRP Chair**
- **Alan Gardner, Washington County Commissioner**
- **Bill Swadley from Senator Orrin Hatch's Office**
- **Bette Arial and Yoli Klauwitter from Senator Mike Lee's Office**
- **Gary Webster from Congressman Chris Stewart's Office**
- **Bette Arial, St. George City Councilwomen**

The prayer was offered by Lisa Thorpe

Chairman Jensen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Houston announced the following:

- **UTGOP State Convention to be held Saturday, August 15, 2015**
- **WCRW Fall Social Dinner, Thursday, September 3, 2015. We are hopeful to have Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox as our guest speaker.**
- **The guest speaker for our October luncheon, Thursday, October 1st will be Sheriff Cory Pulsipher and his Canine Officer Kate. We plan to make Officer Kate an honorary member of WCRW.**
- **All meetings, unless other noticed, will be at the Abbey Inn.**

President Houston welcomed the Washington County Republican Women members.

Business

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve both April and May Luncheon Minutes was made by Secretary LaRene Cox, seconded by Bette Arial and approved unanimously. President Houston declared the motion carried.

Finance Report

Our Finance Chair, LaStar Richins reported that our general checking account currently has a balance of \$9,714.30 and the account for Caring for America totaled \$1,148.14.

Membership Report

Lesa Sandberg, 2nd VC over Membership, handed out name badges and reported our current Gem Membership as: 16 Silver, 9 Gold and 2 Diamond. She awarded cookies to our June, July and August birthdays. She also gave prizes to the Member winner and Guest winner.

Legislative Report

Bette commented that it was interesting to watch the Presidential Candidates surface. To date there are four democrats and eleven republicans running for President.

This time of year a water report is not normally produced but because the recent rain fall battles are beginning to surface over water.

Obama is threatening to make two new monuments just south of our boarder in Arizona.

Because of the possible Supreme Court ruling on LGBT marriages, Senator Lee has drafted a bill protecting religious schools.

Senator Hatch is trying to stop the federal government water grab.

It is truly the time to be involved.

Time was turned to Gary Webster from Congressman Chris Stewart's office. Gary reported a great turnout to congressman's town hall meeting that was held in Hurricane. With his appointment to the Intelligence Committee, the congressman has traveled to many places and says "'this is a dangerous world'".

Gary reported success with the dreaded Prairie Dog in Iron County as well as a Medical Doctor's case with Medicare payment challenges related to patients across the border into Arizona and Nevada. The Federal Government didn't recognize him as being licensed in these three bordering states. After his efforts and help from the Congressman's office, which totaled nearly a year, Medicare issued the doctor a new Medicare number that will work in Nevada. The Patriot Act has been replaced with a new improved Act that requires a judge to give a warrant before the government can collect private telephone messages. We must consider the balance of the National Government as well as our freedoms.

Bill Swadley from Senator Hatch's office gave an update on the Finance Committee reporting that with the Senator's position as chairman, he is focusing on increasing job creation and improving the economy. One way in which he is going about this is through some of his efforts related to trade. Because Utah ranks sixth in the nation for export, the Senator sees this as being extremely valuable nationwide but particularly here in Utah. In 2013 Utah exported 16 billion in goods and 6.1 billion in services. Eighty-six percent of Utah's exporters are small and medium sized businesses. Senator Hatch has introduced a Trade Promotion Authority Bill which passed the Senate last month. This allows congress to have a role in negotiation trade agreements, to set up objectives and be a part of that process. Senator Hatch is pleased by the passage of Trade Promotion Authority Bill in the Senate and it will now be taken up by the house.

In the near future there will be ongoing negotiations related to the Trans-Pacific Partnership dealing with eleven other nations and a Trade Agreement amongst all of them.

Before opening comments, Diane announced the day as being Senator Lee's birthday and invited Bette Arial wish him a happy birthday from all of us in Washington County.

Diane Adams, 1st VC over Programs, introduced our guest speaker, Chairman of the Washington County Republican Party, Robert Jensen.

“For those of you who were here last month, as you remember, we were left with a cliff hanger. Literally we were left on a mountaintop in the snow. So we are looking forward to hearing the rest of the story.

Our guest this afternoon is no stranger to hard work. He grew up here in in Southern Utah in a family owned construction business. And not only did he work hard at that, he put himself through law school pouring concrete. So he has a firm foundation of how things should be built and built upon. He is a lawyer and is a Partner with the law firm of JensenBayles. They are recognized as top attorneys for Construction, Business, Real Estate, and Estate Planning law.

It is my honor to introduce to you, Robert Jensen, our Washington County Republican Party Chairman.”

Chairman Jensen expressed his excitement to be working with the Republican Party as Chair. He spoke of the Republican Party generally and the Republican Party in the State of Utah, as well as, the Republican Party in Washington County (WCRP).

He began by recognizing the Washington County Republican Women (WCRW) and the great things our group does; things the Republican Party isn't doing or isn't able to do. For example, our organization holds monthly meetings and hosts the yearly legislative review. He complimented our leadership for not allowing things to fall through the cracks. He made comment on how the WCRP relies on the women and wishes to continue a great relationship. The chairman made comment that he will look to us for support and expressed his thanks for all we are doing.

Robert complimented Governor Herbert for always having a running list of why Utah is the greatest state in the nation. The Governor said in a recent UTGOP State Central Committee Meeting that Utah is currently recognized as the State with the leading economy. That Utah is and needs to be 'a city on the hill'.

Chairman Jensen reported that he feels Washington County is doing much the same in the state of Utah. He praised Washington County for raising more money per capita than any other county at the Neighborhood Caucus Elections. He said other counties have phenomenal overhead so at the end of the day, Washington

County has the ability to offer more than other counties. Washington County is being recognized as a big player in state politics and economy. The chairman wants us to feel that we live in the most Republican County in the most Republican State and wants to make sure Washington County plays hard ball with those on the Wasatch Front and leave a big foot print. He invited the WCRW to join in those efforts.

The chairman recapped his 'cliff hanger' story about falling in love with a woman that meant everything to him. He planned a surprise proposal after being helicoptered to the top of 'Y' mountain in Provo. There he proposed and she didn't say yes. He took her home to meet his family and she said yes before they went back to school. He proclaimed as the best wife ever!

The moral he drew from his romance story is that sometimes we need to be patient. If there is a fault with the Republican Party it is that we are not patient.

Chairman Jensen made reference to an article written by Kate Dalley in which he did not like the ending. The article was entitled 'The Reluctant Republican'. In this article she comments how she fell in love with Republican principles at an early age. However, she says, Democrats seem happy with their party; they are not in a quandary. Republicans are feeling split and divided.

Chairman Jensen vehemently expressed that this is simply not the case. That at the SCC meeting someone quoted Ronald Reagan as saying that we are the party of big ideas and tough debates. And when we deal with constitutional principles and keeping this country on a straight and fast line, built on those constitutional principles, it is not an easy project and it takes tough debates.

Chairman Jensen said there are a lot of different ideas and divisions in our party such as conservative, ultra-conservative, moderate, constitutional republicans, and it is important that we get together, stay together and that we work together and learn to stomach the tough debates. The beauty is that, unlike other counties, Washington County does that really well. It is important that Washington County reach out to all including independents.

The chairman compared Utah and our Caucus Convention System to other states and how the caucus system allows candidates to vet the delegates like no other system. The delegates in turn answer to their neighborhoods.

Senate Bill 54 was a compromise between 'Count My Vote' advocates and the legislature and is a safety net. The Republican Party has filed a lawsuit to say that as a party we have the right to control our membership and our candidates. If we should lose the lawsuit there is a safety net that still saves our caucus system. This is not a 'civil war' as some proclaim, it is a 'family squabble'!

The chairman concluded with the compliment that the WCRW is doing great things! We are instilling hope on principles that are right. These principles need to be guiding stars on a city, county level and state level. The WCRW is an inspiration to the county. We are part of a county that is also exemplary and we are going to do some great things! Utah is a great example to our nation.

President Houston thanked Chairman Jensen for his report and adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:05 PM.