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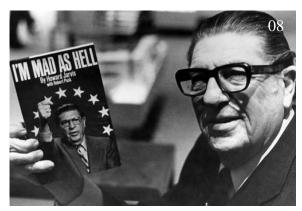
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#### **Happy Elephant Hour**

Each month, WVRWF members gather at a local water hole for whine and wine. These popular events give our members the opportunity to gather with like-minded Conservatives.

Watch for times and locations!



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is it just me or is everyone tired of the dead horse being beaten by the press and the democrats?

I was actually foolish enough to believe that once the Mueller report was in and the issues in question regarding Russia and our honestly elected President were clarified, we could move on. I was rather hoping that the public servants we hired to govern our country would return to doing the job they were hired by us to do. Silly me. I don't recall anyone voting for a representative in government to carry on a witch hunt that makes the Salem Witch Trials look like a birthday party. I guess I was being irrational in my belief that we have any rational human beings in government.

I'm not the first to be surprised by the fact that we have people in the press and in power that actually hate President Trump more than they love America. Their irrational hatred of our President stems from the fact that they can't beat him at anything. He is always one step ahead of the swamp creatures and sadly that not only includes Democrats — but some Republicans. Even statistics including unemployment, the economic growth, the stock market and approval ratings, don't seem to affect the haters. Where did all this hatred come from? We are surrounded by it. Hatred of Jews, Muslims, Christians, Blacks, Whites, Asians, Liberals and Conservatives — you name 'em and somebody hates 'em! But if you are a Trump hater- you are really a hater.

My naiveté continues with my search for the good old days when you might not like what was going on but you could discuss it rationally and reach conclusions — and once conclusions were reached, verdicts were read and the votes were counted we could move on to actually accomplishing something.

Our president was elected fairly and honestly by the American people. He has taken the punches and is still standing and it is way past time for everyone to let him do what he does best, what he was hired to do— take care of America and her citizens. Imagine what he could accomplished without the wasted time, energy and the hindrance of the constant efforts to derail him. The Democrats will continue to beat the dead horse with the hopes there is still some sign of life long after our Lone Ranger rides into the winners circle and into the history books.

God Bless Him!

Dale

## The Trumpet Newsletter

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#### MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING



#### Become a Member

Our conservative agenda must be guarded and nurtured by us always. Join the WVRWF today and fight for conservative values!

You will find the 2019 Membership Form on the following page or visit www.wvrwf.com.



#### Renew Your Membership

Your membership enables us to be aligned with the California Federation of Republican Women.

We welcome Sisters, Mothers and Daughters as associate members. Men and Spouses still included!

Renew your membership now to help us get started on another great year!



#### Gift of Membership

Give the Gift of Membership to anyone! We will send them a welcome email and let them know that they are now part of our Club!



#### New Member Featurette

Leslie Escoto

Leslie Escoto has been married to Ernie Escoto for 35 years. Her daughter, Carly Calmes, is a singer/song writer who lives in Santa Monica with her husband, Jon. Leslie's family moved to Thousand Oaks in 1983 and they love the community. She is part of the Soroptimist International Club of Conejo (SI Conejo).

Leslie grew up in the San Fernando Valley and attended Cleveland High School in Reseda. She has a Bachelor Degree in Speech Communications from California State University of Northridge. She has spent 32 years in the electronics sales industry. Her current employment is with Future Electronics, a privately held distributor of electronic components.

Leslie has been conservative for most of her voting years and is very pleased to join the Westlake Village Republican Women's Club. Leslie states that it was great meeting some of the folks at the mixer and sharing the passion she has for this community and country.

#### **New Members**

Christine Bayliss

Mar Graham

Paula Parsons

#### **Birthdays**

Ann Kuck	4/5
Delores Chantra	4/6
Sally Schneider	4/13
Patricia Duggan	4/14
Karen Wetterlind	4/19
Shelia Ruiz	4/25
Lorraine Mensch	4/26



#### 2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New Application ☐ Renewal

Address: City\_\_\_\_\_State Zip Home: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: (\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work: (\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse\*: MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS ☐ Active Member Annual Dues\* \$35 ☐ Gold Elephant Sponsor \$100 ☐ Platinum Elephant Sponsor \$200 Sponsorships include dues and receive special recognition in newsletters, website, programs and directory ☐ Student Member \$15 ☐ \*SAVE\* Couples Membership \$50 When spouses join together (spouse joins as an Associate Member) ☐ Associate Member Annual Dues \$25 Associate membership available for Men, Daughters, Sisters, and members of another Republican Women Federated club (please state which club \_\_\_\_\_) □ \*Optional\* Name Badge Name to appear on badge: Total Payment Would you like to be included in the 2019 Membership Directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No Directly is for members only and will not be used for commercial purposes How do you want to receive your monthly Newsletter?: □ Email [cost effective for the club] □ Mail Only PAYMENT METHODS ☐ Online at www.wvrwf.org ☐ Credit Card: CC# Exp Sec. Code Zip ☐ Check Payable to WVRWF, Mail to: WVRWF, P.O. Box 6536, Westlake Village, CA 91359-6536 Become Engaged in Our Club! Help Our Republican Party! Share Your Talents! (Circle your interests) Community Service/Literacy Voter Registration Military Support Mailings Fundraising at Club Events Hospitality Legislation Membership Outreach Newsletter Contributions Photography at Events Programs/Speakers Technology or Media



## Happy Elephant Hour

A very happy Happy Hour was held on April 24 at the new Oak and Iron craft cocktail bar on Thousand Oaks Blvd. The location is owned by WVRWF member, Drew Pletcher. The event attracted many new, returning and prospective members.









## Red White and Blue Ball



WVRWF members at the Reagan Library showing their support for the Military Order of the World Wars at the annual gala.

#### CLUB EVENTS!

## MARCH FOR THE TROOPS

About 40 members of the WVRWF gathered at the Sunland Winery in Thousand Oaks on March 27th for the annual March for the Troops event. This year the bluc was supporting the Air Warriors Courage Foundation. The AWCF was formed by members of Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association (River Rats) to help with the financial problems of Warriors not covered by government programs.

Their purpose is to help active, reserve, retired and/or former members of the U.S. military and their families. Colonel Jerry Knotts, Treasurer of the Foundation and father of member Stephanie Knotts, gave an emotional presentation highlighting the difficulties faced by active members of our military as well as veterans.

This organization has provided immeasurable support to many soldiers and their families, offering services both financial and emotional to our services members in need. This very successful fundraiser raised just under \$2,000 for the group, led by member Toni Caruso and her husband, Keith, as they made a sizable donation in the name of their son, Rocky, currently serving in the U.S. Army. Many thanks to the members of WVRWF for their generosity.



Colonel Jerry Knotts, Air Warrior Courage Foundation and Jim Sumner of ASA





#### **SAVE THE DATE!**



Jon Coupal, President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association May 9, 2019, 5:30 pm North Ranch Country Club, Thousand Oaks



Happy Elephant Hour
May 15, 2019
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Location TBD
\$10.00 members; \$15 non-members
Enjoy shared appetizers, no host bar.

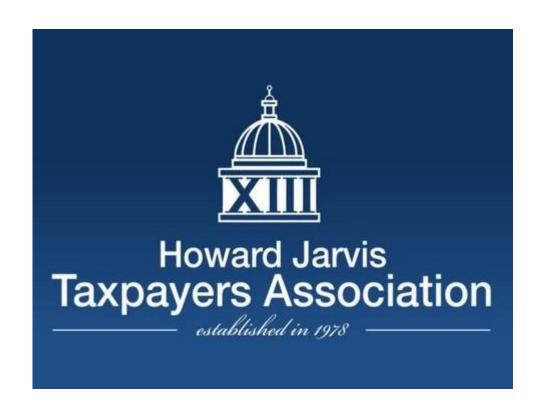
**Coffee & Conservatives** 



May 22, 2019

Guest Speaker, Tamika Bridgewater, will discuss improving racial inclusiveness in the Republican Party. Location will be emailed upon RSVP





# We look forward to seeing you at our May 9<sup>th</sup> event with President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association, Jon Coupal!

## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! SIGN THE PETITION AND PROTECT PROP 13!

Today, pro-tax politicians outnumber taxpayer allies by 60 to 20 in the State Assembly and by 29 to 11 in the State Senate. Frequent and intense Petition Campaigns are now essential to protect homeowners from higher property taxes and to prevent the weakening or repeal of Proposition 13.

That is why the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association now makes Petitions available online. Just print the PDF Petition below and mail back as many as you like from you and your friends and family.

Please share this page and encourage friends to download a Petition to build our Tax Revolt power to protect you, all homeowners, and Proposition 13!

#### PLEASE PRINT, SIGN AND MAIL THIS PETITION TO:

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association Attn: Director of Member Services, Dept. 192005 P.O. Box 14230 Orange, CA 92863-1230



#### HOWARD JARVIS TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

#### OFFICIAL PETITION

To: My California Assembly Member And the entire California State Assembly

And the entire California State Assembly Whereas you will soon vote on Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1, which creates dozens of exceptions to Proposition 13's two-thirds vote protection against excessive Parcel Taxes and Bond Debt, costing taxpayers billions in FOLD the coming years and putting the security of home ownership at risk; Now Therefore I hereby exercise my right of Petition, urging you to VOTE NO on ACA 1 or any Constitutional Amendment that would weaken Proposition 13. \_ Date Signed: \_ Signed: \_ One of hundreds of thousands of Members and Supporters of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association Please do not remove the section below. The form will be detached before petitions are delivered to the Assembly Member. Dear HJTA President Jon Coupal: Yes, I'm returning my signed Petition to you so you can compile the thousands you receive and deliver them to my Assembly representative and the entire State Assembly. To help HJTA fight ACA 1 and ALL threats to Prop. 13, I am also enclosing a special donation in the amount of: FOLD FOLD □ \$15 □ \$25 □ Other \$ First, Last Name: ☐ My check is enclosed, payable to Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association or HJTA. Address: \_\_\_\_ ☐ Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_ \_ to my: □ Visa ☐ Mastercard City, State ZIP: \_\_\_ □ Discover □ American Express Contributions or gifts to the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association are not tax-deductible. Card #: Sign up with your e-mail address below to receive taxpayer e-mail updates: Exp. Date: \_\_\_ Name on Card: Your e-mail address will be used only for communications

from HJTA. We will not trade or rent your e-mail address,

and you can unsubscribe at any time.

## Politicians Look to Grab More Money – While Passing on the Costs to You



By: David Grau, Ventura County Taxpayers Association

Another day, another scramble for more tax revenue in California.

Although state budget reserves have grown to a record high of more than \$15 billion, according to Ventura County Taxpayers Association (VCTA), new tax proposals keep popping up in Sacramento. Two proposals to raise existing taxes and expand taxes into new areas illustrate how California's elected leaders are failing to be honest with voters about the nature of the budget problems facing the state.

The first is SB246 which would impose a severance tax on oil and natural gas production of 10 percent of the average price which equates to a \$900 million tax increase on Californians. Those tax dollars would flow directly into the state's general fund to be used for anything the legislators would like. The second is the long-anticipated effort to change Prop. 13, the landmark 1978 ballot measure limiting property tax increases to 2 percent a year, so that it no longer applies to commercial and industrial parcels.

Proponents appear to have gathered enough signatures that voters will be asked to consider what's known as "split roll" in 2020. This has the potential to generate an additional \$6 billion to \$10 billion a

year in new revenue. Local governments would get 60 percent of this windfall and school districts would get 40 percent. Advocates tout the measure as an easy way to fund new and improved city services and to boost school quality.

Both of these efforts are shrouded by smokescreens that obscure key facts. In the case of the oil severance tax, proponents carefully obscure the fact that the severance tax would reduce local tax revenue in oil-producing counties such as Ventura, making it harder to fund local services. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office warned of this consequence of the oil severance tax.

California is one of the only states to base property taxes on the value of undeveloped oil reserves in the ground. Because the tax increase would make producing oil and gas in some areas less economical, it would reduce the value of oil in the ground, resulting in lower property taxes on those oil reserves.

This would be a significant potential hit to Ventura County. Currently, the local oil and gas industry provides \$21 million in tax revenue to local jurisdictions, and they have historically been one of the top four or five property tax payers in the county. The state would get all the benefit of an oil severance tax while Ventura County governments would be left holding the bill.

The case for "split roll" is built on the myth that California is undertaxed compared with other states. However, California is among the top ten states with the highest tax burden according to the non-partisan Tax Foundation. California also has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the nation.

Prop 13 was passed in response to voter anger over past rapid increases in property taxes. The effort to undermine Prop 13 is a transparent attempt by bigspending politicians and their allies to free themselves of the restriction placed on them by voters.

The common thread uniting both of these proposals is politicians looking to grab more money to spend while passing on the costs to you, the California taxpayer. With the state reporting large reserves and cash surpluses, we do not need additional taxes. The answer is more accountability for how our tax dollars are spent.

We need answers on how, with all this money to spend, state services are so poor and our infrastructure is aging and outdated. Voters should be pressing for this increased accountability rather than handing politicians yet another blank check.

The Ventura County Taxpayer Association is made up of people who recognize the importance of government to our communities. Government should be efficient, effective and always transparent.

### **YOU Can Run for Office!!!**



As Republican women living in California, we know how important it is for more Republicans to be represented in all facets of politics, from school board, city council to state and federal government positions. Our Republican voices are missing in California and are desperately needed all over the country at all levels. We need to work harder to change this. It begins with US.

With this in mind, on April 5, 2019, I flew into Reno, Nevada to attend "Campaign Management School". This was a one-day program, presented with the Nevada Federation of Republican Women. Republican women from all over the United States were represented. The instructor was Holly Robichaud of Tuesday Associates. Tuesday Associates is a consulting firm specializing in strategic planning of campaigns, voter contact programs and fundraising for Republicans.

Holly has over three decades of experience in campaign consulting at all levels and has won many awards and recognition for her contributions to winning campaigns, from ballot initiatives to Constitutional offices. She is extremely qualified and a very engaging presenter. Holly's sense of humor permeates her presentation which is fast moving, lively, inspirational and informative.

The day's program included many different facets of being involved in public service from how to connect with voters, social media, grassroots organizing and fundraising. It provided much food for thought, such as what makes a good candidate and how not to waste your time and effort. One very important part of the presentation was "How to Beat the Democrat machine". This is a complicated issue since it means dealing with the cheating that seems to be an integral part of the Democrat strategy to win at any cost. It made the concept of running for office seem like an exciting yet do-able challenge. The amount of information was overwhelming, but every participant left with a copy of the NFRW Campaign Management School Manual to study and refer to as needed. The manual alone is worth the cost of the program which was \$100.00 per person.

One thing I hadn't thought about was Opposition Research. Running for office means opening your life's history, mistakes and all. Opponents can and will exploit any mistake you've made, bankruptcies, messy divorces, DUIs, even traffic infractions. If you've ever spoken publicly, your words can be misrepresented and used against you. Instead of being discouraged by this, we learned about ways to rise above this pre-emptively and how to get the voters to relate to your only too human foibles. After all, how many of us have completely spotless histories and even something as common as a divorce is fodder for opponents to try to use to intimidate. The Democrats are only too skilled at this, but they can be defeated at their own game. The voting public is incredibly forgiving and there are strategies that can be used to divert attention to and from issues that don't reflect a candidate in a certain light.

Included in the day's program was the wonderful fellowship of other like-minded Republican women. (and some men!) It also included a nice Mexican lunch buffet. (which is important to me as my friends in the WVRWF can attest to!)

The best part of attending the seminar was that I left feeling prepared to attempt a run. I have never run for anything, and so it is really a testament to Holly and her program that I feel like I could actually do it. As Lao-tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Attending this seminar was an important first step for me to consider the possibility that yes, I too could do this important job of representing and defending the interests of my precious fellow Americans and

defending the American way of life which is currently at more risk than many will admit. Will I run? Currently I am a full-time caregiver to my disabled son, so the timing may not be right for me. But if any of you need any help, advice or encouragement, I am here for you!

Holly Robichaud presents this seminar across the country. To contact Holly regarding the next seminar, or for more private coaching email her at: HollyRobichaud@msn.com or call her at: (781)378-1798.

- Kathleen Kitts, Proud member of Westlake Village Republican Women, Federated

### Do 2020 Dems Believe A Word They're Saying:

Leftism for thee, but not for me



By Michael J. Knowles, The Daily Wire

Democrats in sanctuary states support amnesty for illegal aliens, just so long as those illegal aliens don't wind up in sanctuary states. Bernie Sanders and Beto O'Rourke lament the greed of millionaires who hoard their wealth, just as they themselves tighten their millionaire fists around ample stockpiles of cash. Kamala Harris promises "common sense" gun control measures that would outlaw some of the most popular guns in American, just as she conveniently leaves her own firearms and armed security guards undisturbed.

"Leftism for thee but not for me," they seem to say. So are the 2020 Democratic candidates cynics or hypocrites? Either they advocate policies in which they don't believe or they simply hope to avoid the consequences of policies they do in fact support. Whichever the case may be, the gap between Democrats' professed opinions and personal behavior offers President Trump a crucial defense against his opponents and detractors.

President Trump's greatest political liabilities revolve around questions of personality and character. In a survey conducted during Trump's first year in office, Gallup found that just 16% of Trump disapprovers oppose the president over issues and policies; a whopping 65% disapprove of his character. Among

those who approve of Trump, just 3% cite "honesty" and "integrity" among the reasons for their enthusiasm.

Yet despite his proclivity for exaggeration, President Trump can claim a far greater record of honesty than his Democrat opponents in 2020. He has kept more campaign promises than many of his predecessors. He answers questions more bluntly and avoids the focus-grouped double-talk endemic to professional politicians. While Beto O'Rourke struggles to explain skimping on charitable donations and underpaying his taxes, President Trump brags that taking advantage of tax deductions 'makes him smart.' The 2020 Democrat presidential candidates may appear polished, but a rigorous primary campaign will fade that patina of integrity to reveal characters less trustworthy than the much-maligned incumbent.

Democrats must resolve the discrepancy between the appearance and reality of their personalities and policy proposals. But to acknowledge reality is to concede that the country has prospered under President Trump. Americans really are better off now than they were three years ago. And so the candidates continue to peddle fantasy. How long can they keep up the narrative before voters realize they don't even believe it themselves?

## The Horrifying Case that Proves Our Parental Rights are Under Serious Attack in This County

Matt Walsh, The Daily Wire

Reason has a horrifying and harrowing report from Robby Soave detailing the months-long saga of corruption and abuse that a family suffered at the hands of law enforcement and child protective services. It is well worth reading the whole article, which I will only briefly summarize here.

The Lowther family of New Mexico found themselves in the crosshairs after a teacher their four-year-old daughter's school claimed that the girl reported that she'd been sexually abused by her father and her sevenyear-old brother. The district attorney (DA) would eventually decline to move forward with the case because there evidence was no whatsoever, the child's story changed wildly in the telling and included a number of obviously fantastical details, the father passed multiple polygraph tests, and it's likely that the girl was really just describing her father helping her wipe after using the toilet (something all parents have done for their children many times). But in between the initial "report" from the girl and the DA's decision to drop the whole matter, Lowther family was ripped apart, the children were placed in foster care, the father was fired from his job and labeled a child rapist by



the media, the young girl was subjected to lengthy interrogations and extraordinarily invasive physical exams, the family was forced to shell out \$300,000 in legal expenses, and the accused father and his wife were both summarily stripped of all parental rights, not to mention their Fourth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendment rights as well.

The most frightening aspect of the story is the malicious and underhanded manner with which the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) and local police operated throughout the proceedings. They decided from the outset that Adam Lowther must be guilty (because who has ever heard of a four-year-old kid telling fanciful stories?) and treated him like a child-raping felon, accordingly. These agencies were interested in establishing guilt by whatever means necessary, not ascertaining the objective truth. They also had the advantage of a system that automatically turns entire families into wards of the state as soon as someone in government decides that someone in that family may have done something wrong.

After being contacted by the school, the police forced their way into the family's home, without a warrant, and forbade the mother, Jessica, from speaking to her children. Eventually, the children would end up in foster care. They were briefly returned to Jessica's custody (Adam was not allowed to see his kids for several months after the initial arrest), but she had to have her parents move in and act as "safety monitors." The children were removed from their mother's custody once again when CYFD got word that the safety monitors didn't believe in Adam's guilt.

As I said, read the whole report. I recently finished the second volume of *The Gulag Archipelago* — Solzhenitsyn's magnum opus about the Soviet labor camp system — and the Lowther family's experiences

seem to bear certain uncomfortable resemblances. And their story is not unique. Many innocent mothers and fathers have similarly discovered that they have no rights and no presumption of innocence once the despots at child services come knocking.

It is the nightmare scenario that every parent dreads. What if your child goes to school with a story he made up in his head, or repeats something he heard from a friend, or for whatever other reason says something that accidentally implicates you as an abuser or worse? My fiveyear-old daughter likes to erroneously claim that her twin brother "punched her in the head." I've seen both of them smack each other on various occasions, but I've

never seen my son punch anyone. Kids make up stories. And if they're young enough, they don't even know that they're making it up. Children before the age of reason cannot fully distinguish between a lie and the truth. So, what if my daughter went out in public one day and told a slightly different version of her familiar yarn: "Daddy punched me in the head"?

That would be enough, it seems, to land my kids in foster care and me behind bars. Every parent is in this boat. The only thing keeping our parental rights intact is that our kids haven't made up the wrong kind of story and told it to the wrong person — which is another way of saying that we don't really have parental rights. If child services can revoke those rights at any time, without evidence, without investigation, without reasonable cause, without even a consistent or credible accusation, then what does it mean to say we have the "rights" in the first place?

I believe, of course, that actual allegations of abuse must be investigated. Certainly we can't ignore a child who claims that her parents are abusing her. Some parents really are guilty of these horrible crimes. But due process cannot go out the window. Unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from social services cannot be empowered to act as prosecutor, judge, and jury. The rights of the parents, and the best interest of the children, must be absolutely preserved and respected at all times. But that is simply not how these cases often play out.

#### HOW TO REACH YOUR LEGISLATORS

#### President

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(310) 917-7300
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Thousand Oaks District Office 223 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd. Suite 411 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 (805) 379-1779

Congressman Steve Knight (R-25) District Office 41481 39th St. West Lancaster, CA 93536

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