

From Our President:

I want to thank you for believing in me and entrusting me to lead the RWOF for the next two years. It is time to **take back Republican majorities not only in Congress but also in State and Local elections across the country.**

RWOF is a powerful network of women that produces results in elections, dedicates itself to empowering women and strengthens the Republican Party. **Get involved, help us achieve our goals and save our country. We can do it together.**

RWOF Thanks and Welcomes the following members who have agreed to hold the following positions. Let us know if you would be interested in serving on one of the committees. The Committee Chairs are listed.

- 1st VP Desley Parker
- 2nd VP Kathy Alexander
- Treasurer June Scroggin
- Recording Secretary Jeanne Wildinger
- Corresponding Secretary Lisa Panos

STANDING COMMITTEES

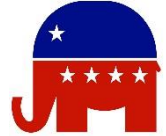
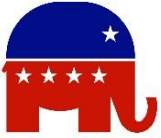
- Fundraising - Tammy Magee
- Parliamentarian - Mary Potthast

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Chaplain – Martha Gorecki
- Hospitality/Buttons – Kathy Foster
- Sunshine – Anna Peele
- Scholarship Committee – Billie Chappell
- Table Flags - Mira Villanacci
- Newsletter - Maddie McNeal
- Website - Sarah Backes
- 50/50 – Karen Rose

Community Outreach Program – Need a Chair

Deborah Stone, President



1ST V.P. DESLEY PARKER

**RWOF FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER
Jason T. Autrey, P.E., C.P.M.**

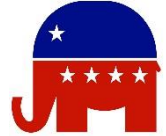
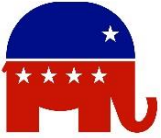
Mr. Jason Autrey, P.E. is the Public Works Director for Okaloosa County. In this role Mr. Autrey is responsible for approximately 175 employees that perform tasks within Engineering, Road Maintenance, Fleet Operations, Surveying, Solid Waste, Mosquito Control Traffic Operations, and Supply. The annual budget he is responsible for is approximately \$75 million. Jason has been working with Okaloosa County since 2004, initially serving as the Land Development Review Engineer, then becoming the Engineering Manager, County Engineer, and then the Public Works Director in 2015.

Mr. Autrey is originally from Gainesville, FL and he attended the University of Florida where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1998. Jason moved to Okaloosa County in September of 2000. Mr. Autrey obtained his Professional Engineer’s license in January of 2003 and is also a Certified Public Manager.

In addition to being the Director of Public Works, Mr. Autrey is a full-time football official in the SEC where he works as the Referee. Starting in 2004 Jason worked as an official for local middle and high school football games and has since moved up to the NCAA ranks. Games of note that Mr. Autrey has worked, all as the crew chief, include the 2013 NJCAA National Championship Game in Biloxi, MS, 2014 NCAA Division II National Championship Game in Kansas City, KS, 2017 Hawaii Bowl in Honolulu, HI, and the 2022 Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA.



Jason had the privilege of serving as an Honorary Commander with Col. Harry Seibert of the 1 SOMXG stationed at Hurlburt Field on Eglin Air Force Base in Ft. Walton Beach, FL and he is proud to live and work for a County that has such strong support for the military. Mr. Autrey is always looking for ways to develop relationships for the benefit of our community.



2ND V.P. KATHY ALEXANDER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- Debbie Cafarelli 5 Feb
- Connie White 20 Feb
- Ellen Goodson 22 Feb

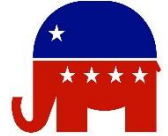
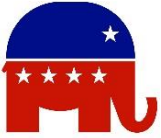
Congratulations to our Winners in January

Free Lunch-Sherri Cox

Free Twisted Grape Certificate-Nancy Lehfeltd

**Welcome New Members
Schala Duckett, Lois Gerhard**

**Welcome Returning Associate
Marcus Chambers**

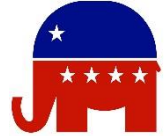
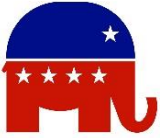


**JUNE SCROGGIN
TREASURER**

**LISA PANOS
CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY**



**JEANNE WILDINGER
RECORDING SECRETARY**



KATHY FOSTER, HOSPITALITY

Our February Menu:

House Salad with Ranch and Vinaigrette

Baked Lemon Pepper Chicken Breast

Brown Sugar Dijon Glazed Pork Loin

Green Beans, Roasted Red Potatoes

Rolls and Butter

Carrot Cake for Dessert

Regular & Decaf Coffee

Unsweetened Iced Tea & Water



The cost is \$18 for members and \$20 for guests. Please respond with a Yay or Nay by **Friday, January 28** as reservations are required.

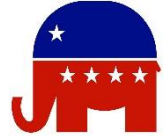
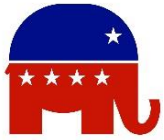
Thank you... hope to see you at The Wyndham Garden Resort, 573 Santa Rosa Blvd., Okaloosa Island. Gathering at 11:30, meeting promptly at 12:00.



MARTHA GORECKI, CHAPLAIN

February's message will be about Frederick Douglass. He was a civil rights leader (1800s), former slave, taught himself to read, prolific writer, and counselor to President Lincoln, Had one great political idea found in the Bible, "seek righteousness, seek humility",

Song - Battle Hymn of the Republic.



What's going on in our area?

It is reassuring to know that in the face of a pandemic, supply chain interruptions and rising inflation, we in Okaloosa County have had a very positive year.

Okaloosa's economy is healthy with 97,381 people employed in Okaloosa County which is 4,003 more than one year ago. The Unemployment rate is 2.9 %, one of the lowest in Florida's 67 counties. In respect to job creation, the county was given 10 years to create 1300 jobs in the high value defense sector when awarded \$64M for the Triumph Grant for creation of the SR 85 Bypass. The county not only met this requirement a full eight years early but exceeded it by more than 600 jobs.

With heavy input from our friends and neighbors, Okaloosa County is always looking to the future. From creating public beach access ways on Okaloosa Island to a bike and pedestrian pathways from Brooks Bridge to Destin Bridge, we're focused on creating an even better way of life for Okaloosa County.

What's more is Okaloosa County residents don't bear the burden for these projects. Rather, they are paid for by sharp increases in tourism revenue as people from across the country seek freedom that can only be found in northwest Florida.

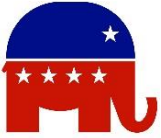
This is all made possible by the strength of our economy, and the underlying philosophy of promoting freedom over lockdowns, coupled with fiscal restraint, that have resulted in a stable expansion of tourist activity as compared with other parts of the country.

Yet, as tourism increases, so does the local infrastructure requirements needed to ensure we maintain a stable expansion. For example, Okaloosa has seen a dramatic increase in airport usage, where we now have 56 direct domestic flights to destinations on 4 major airlines. Just last year, we flew 2 million passengers through VPS! A new additional terminal is under construction and will be completed this year, and shortly visitors will be able use a new state of the art baggage handling system. 800 parking spaces have been added on our apron. Finally, Okaloosa County completed a Joint Use Lease with Eglin AFB which will allow for flexibility in commercial flights that will not interfere with the military mission.

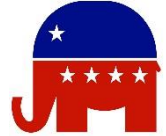
What's more, under the oversight of a fiscally conservative Okaloosa County Commission, our three airport system in Okaloosa is debt free.

Further the county has successfully completed much needed projects. These include:

- Crestview Southwest Bypass and East-West Connector underway with all phases (Phase V from I-10 north to Hwy 90 kicked off in the Fall and FDOT will start overpass later this year).



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- Countywide Emergency Communications System upgrades underway
- A new mass notification system for our area schools
- A new law enforcement Training Complex in Crestview
- Several storm water projects on-going, including Lafitte Crescent – Standish Court Meigs Drive, 6th Street in Shalimar, Bluewater Bay, Overbrook and Lake Lorraine.
- Additional road projects – Commons/Henderson intersection, Hospital/Lewis Turner, PD&E for Northwest Bypass, Hwy 2 widening.
- Replacement for the aging Brooks Bridge in Fort Walton Beach.
- Efforts to improve County roads by stabilizing approximately 10 miles of dirt roads.

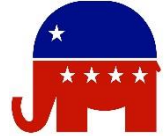
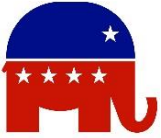
we have heard from citizens who wish to have more water access for their boats. With that in mind we expanded our inventory of waterfront access parks and boat launches. Your Board of County Commission approved acquiring properties on Rickey Avenue and Water Street in the south end of the county. Additionally, Crystal Beach property was purchased in cooperation with the City of Destin to give much needed public access in the Destin area.

A beach renourishment pilot project, which has already proven successful for approximately 3 miles of coastal sand is underway with the NuShore project. This promises to reduce the cost of expensive dredging.

In an effort to recognize women who have served our nation since the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, 8 bronze statues were placed at Veteran's Park on Okaloosa Island. This provides historic preservation, educational opportunities to learn of women's service and preserves the land for the beauty of the wild life including nesting herons, beavers, monarch butterflies and 240 plus costal and migratory birds.

Leadership matters in tough times. We continue to maintain one of the lowest ad valorem tax rates in Florida and are committed to common sense conservative solutions for our community. Okaloosa County is a leader in economic development and continues to make a difference for our citizens.

My Sincere Thanks
Carolyn N. Ketchel
Chairman
County Commissioner
Okaloosa County, Board of County Commissioners
1250 N Eglin Pkwy., Suite 100
Shalimar, FL 32579
850-651-7105
cketchel@myokaloosa.com



MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER AT NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE WILL HAVE TREY GOWDY AND CHARLES PAYNE FEATURED IN THE 2022 PRESIDENT’S SPEAKER SERIES. THESE EVENTS ARE FREE. I WOULD LIKE TO GET A GROUP OF RWOF MEMBERS TO ATTEND WITH ME. I’M MENTIONING THIS NOW SO THAT YOU CAN MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND WITH ME.

TREY GOWDY – FEBRUARY 4th, 2022: Trey Gowdy was a federal and state prosecutor for 16 years prosecuting the full range of crime including murder, homicide by child abuse, armed robbery, kidnapping, carjacking and the murder of a federal witness. He was recognized statewide for excellence in domestic violence and drunk driving prosecutions, nationally for excellence in death penalty litigation, and by victim groups for his unfailing commitment to victim rights.

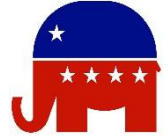


As a prosecutor he also ran diversion programs, expanded Drug Court, and implemented a protocol for expectant mothers addicted to controlled substances.

CHARLES PAYNE – APRIL 8th, 2022: Charles’ passion for the stock market began when he was 14 years old. He told his mother then that one day, he would work on Wall Street. Charles got his start in the industry in research at EF Hutton in 1985. After two years, he switched gears and accepted a position with boutique brokerage firm, Greentree Securities. It was there that he first saw a niche for independent and timely equity advice, which led to the creation of Wall Street



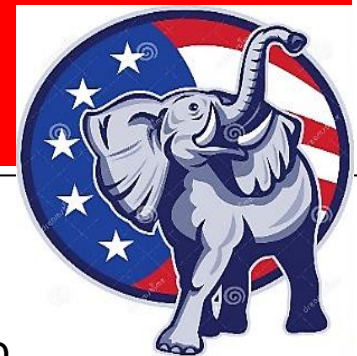
Strategies. Charles has become well sought after by many highly respected finance-oriented radio, web and television programs. On June 2, 2014, FOX Business Network launched Charles’ new show Making Money with Charles Payne which is featured daily at 2pm EST.



On Tuesday, January 25th, Kathy Foster and Deb Stone represented the RWOF at a Meet and Greet with Lt. Gov. Nunez in Niceville at the Senior Center.

**REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF OKALOOSA FEDERATED
MISSION STATEMENT**

To bring women together to educate about Local, State and National issues; to improve the quality of life in Okaloosa County through political activity and community involvement; to advance the participation of Republican women in all areas of our political system; and to encourage and support qualified Republican women to seek and win public office.



The "RWOF TRUMPET" is brought to you by Past President Maddie McNeal. Submit articles to Smile4maddie2@gmail.com. Cell: 850-259-0292