

# Louisiana State Legislature NEWS

May 25, 2019



## [May 14, 2019 - LFRW Day at the Legislature Video](#)

Republican Women from across Louisiana met in Baton Rouge for the LFRW Day at the Legislature. The day was packed with interesting speakers and attending committee meetings at the capitol with time to network and connect with friends.



We were welcomed by the newly elected LFRW President Wanda Aizpurua and Lt. Gov. Nungesser at the Pentagon Barracks. The Lt. Gov. proudly showed off his *sassy* Trump Socks before scurrying off to see President Trump in Lake Charles! What a treat!

LFRW heard from several Republican Representatives and Senators, as well as candidates. There was a lot of good information provided before heading to the capitol for committee meetings. It was interesting to attend the meetings and observe the legislators at work.

**Senator Sharon Hewitt, District 1 Slidell** – At breakfast, Sen. Hewitt stressed the importance of tort reform in Louisiana. Senate Bill 154 would remove the “*seat belt gag*” rule that prevents the jury from hearing if a seat belt is being used or not. This rule will help decrease the settlements awarded in jury trials. Louisiana insurance rates are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the nation and the cost can be lowered with this bill.

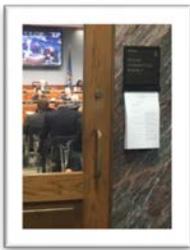
*\*Senate Bill 154 – The Vote on May 20<sup>th</sup> did not pass, thanks to the Senate Judiciary A Committee, so Louisiana will have to wait another year to work toward lowering insurance rates!*

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**Sen Hewitt & Rep. Edmonds** are working together to scrub Louisiana's budget, which is the highest in its history, and to fund hi-priority needs. According to Rep. Edmonds, the House is unanimous in wanting a \$1200 teacher pay raise. However, Gov. Edwards' proposal for \$39M Block Grant for school districts has created division and chaos between the House and Senate. The House wants the funds to go directly to the teachers, rather than districts. The budget is complex, read more: [Senate Panel Endorses \\$39 M...](#)

**Sen. Beth Mizell -District 12 - "What Drives Me!"** She talked about ending abortion, the inability to get something as simple as tort reform to lower insurance rates passed and the need for ratings for apps on phones to protect children. She is very involved in legislation to discourage commercial sex and trafficking and spoke on her efforts in this area!



After hearing from several legislators, we headed to the capitol and attended committee meetings. ARW President Pat Soulier and I went to the Criminal Justice Meeting. It was very interesting and educational in the process of law-making. We heard testimony in favor of and opposing the Death Penalty. The trials can go on for as long as 25 years resulting in enormous expense to the taxpayer. Victims of heinous crimes told heart wrenching stories and testified in favor of the death penalty.

Our day continued at the Capitol Park Museum with a luncheon and more speakers such as Sec. of State Kyle Ardoin, Rep. Rick Edmonds, and Rep. Barry Ivey. We were educated on the importance of keeping the Electoral College, the House's efforts to give teachers a pay raise of \$1200 and encouraged to stay involved in the legislative process and upcoming elections to achieve a more conservative Louisiana.



LFRW Day at the Legislature proved to be an educational and fun day. We met and heard from Senators and Representatives from across Louisiana. It proved to be an informative experience, with plenty of time to network and make new friends with Republican women.

To view the video, click on the title above or here: [May 14, 2019 - LFRW Day at the Legislature Video](#)

Joyce Linde/LFRW Legislative Chair