



## President's Message

Dear NFRW Members::

We had a great meeting in January with Captain Anthony Popiel, Deputy Sector Commander, Coast Guard Sector, Jacksonville, Florida as our speaker. He explained the formation of the Coast Guard and much of its history.

We are still hard at work planning the coming year and thank you for your input at the December meeting. Our Lincoln Day Dinner is currently scheduled for Friday, March 13. Our planned speaker discovered that his external affairs department took exception to his speaking at a political fundraiser.

I am pleased to announce that our guest speaker for the Lincoln Day Dinner will be Laurie Firestone. She is a former White House Social Secretary and has recently published the book "An Affair to Remember."

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter our luncheon dates may vary due to the construction at the Ritz. Please mark your calendars for the following luncheon dates; March 20, and April 17.

I know that parking last month was an issue. The Golf Club has arranged for special valet parking for us. You drive right up to the bag drop (don't go up to the Ritz) and they will park our cars for us.

Warmest regards, *Cherie Billings*

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## February 2009



### LUNCHEON

February 13, 2009

11:30 Social

12:00 Meeting

12:45 Lunch

Guest Speaker:

John Drew

Please mail correspondence to:

NFRW

P.O. Box 1338

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035



### LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ARE IMPORTANT!

Please contact Liz Seagraves by Tuesday, February 10, with a reservation. We must commit to the Golf Club of Amelia Island for food and set-up. Please make your reservation when you receive this newsletter by calling 904-225-2933, or e-mail [lizzymae262@gmail.com](mailto:lizzymae262@gmail.com). Lunch is \$15.00.

#### 2008-2009 Executive Board

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Assistant Treasurer: Judy Main

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## Get to know the February Guest Speaker:

### Tax Collector of Nassau County; The Honorable John Drew



The Tax Collector of Nassau County is an elected Constitutional Officer of the State of Florida who is responsible for the collection and distribution of property taxes and motor vehicle revenues in excess of \$130 million dollars.

John earned his MBA and Bachelors degree from Jacksonville University.

He was recently elected by his fellow Tax Collectors to be a District Director for the Florida Association of Tax Collectors representing all the North Florida Counties as well as being appointed Chairman of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Committee and co-chairman of the State-wide Drivers License committee.

John was appointed to serve as Tax Collector by Gov. Jeb Bush, elected by the citizens with 72 % of the vote in 2006 and was unopposed in the 2008 elections.

**Awards and Recognitions:** Commencement Speaker, Fernandina Beach High School

Graduating Class of 2002; Baccalaureate Speaker, Jacksonville University, Class of 1996; Leadership Nassau Commencement Speaker, 2003; Memorial Day Parade Speaker, Fernandina Beach, FL 2003; Veterans Day Speaker, Fernandina Beach, FL 2004; Order of Green Key Honorary Leadership Society, 2001 Jacksonville University; Presidential Distinguished Service Award, 1996 Jacksonville University; Greek Advisor of the Year, 2006 UNF; only Honorary Member of both the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Firefighters in Nassau County.

### 63rd Chairman of the Republican National Committee: Michael Stephen Steele

A self-described Lincoln Republican. Michael S. Steele earned a place in history in 2003 when he became the first African-American elected to statewide office in Maryland. His experiences as a successful elected conservative African-American Republican and his engaging speaking style have launched Steele into national prominence. His first major exposure was during an appearance at the 2004 Republican National Convention. Since then President George W. Bush chose Steele to be part of the U.S. delegation to the investiture of Pope Benedict XVI, and as a member of the Presidential Delegation to the Leon H. Sullivan Summit VIII in Tanzania. An expert on political strategy, fund-raising, PACs, and election reform, he is the current Chairman of GOPAC. He has served on the National Federal Election Reform Commission and the NAACP Blue Ribbon Commission on Election Reform.

Born in 1958 at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, Maryland, Steele was raised in Washington, DC. He spent three years as a seminarian in the Order of St. Augustine in preparation for the priesthood, but, ultimately, chose a career in law instead. He earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1991.

He is currently a Partner in the international law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf in Washington, DC. From 1991-1997, Steele was a corporate securities attorney at the international law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in Washington, DC, specializing in sophisticated financial transactions on behalf of Wall Street underwriters. He also was a corporate finance counsel for the Mills Corporation and founded his own company, The Steele Group, a business and legal consulting firm. His writings on law, business and politics have appeared in The Washington Times, Politico.com, Townhall.com, and The Journal of International Security Affairs, among others.

Named a 2005 Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellow in Public Leadership and awarded the 2005 Bethune-DuBois Institute Award for his ongoing work in the development of quality education in Maryland, Steele also has served on a variety of boards and commissions including Export-Import Bank Advisory Board, the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors, and the Republican National Committee.

Lt. Governor Steele serves on the Administrative Board of the Maryland Catholic Conference and is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Landover Hills, MD, where he attends mass regularly with his wife Andrea and their two sons Michael and Drew.

Michael Steele was elected chairman of the Republican National Committee on January 30, 2009, and is the first African-American to hold the position.

