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 Paid for by the Republican Party of Washington County, Jennie Frederick, Treasurer

Washington County Republican Women

Every 2nd Saturday – Breakfast and political talk. Round Robin at our members' homes from 9 – 10:30 A.M. See Republican Women Now News (newsletter) for schedule of hostess locations.

Monthly business meetings – Every 4th Thursday of the month followed by a program (if scheduled). Meetings at GOP office – 519 Hickory St., West Bend.

For updated information and events please go to the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women's website – www.wifrw.org. Click on counties, then click on Washington to see our site information.

The GOP Report is a quarterly publication of the Republican Party of Washington County. Its purpose is to publicize the actions of the executive committee and upcoming events and activities of the party as well as to provide a forum for elected officials to report business and inform members of pertinent issues. Please forward any comments, articles or upcoming events to Jim Geldreich jgeld@charter.net with a subject line GOP Newsletter or leave a message at our office phone 262-334-4150.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 1, 2008:
Election Day

APRIL 6, 2008:
5th Congressional District Caucus
Bavarian Inn
Milwaukee

MAY 16 – 17, 2008:
State GOP Convention
Stevens Point

JUNE 7, 2008:
"Victory Starts Here" Campaign
Celebration, KC Hall

SEPT. 7, 2008:
Annual GOP Brat Fry
Jackson



Chairman's Corner

I hope everyone's New Year is off to a great start! We are off and running here in Washington County. As I briefly mentioned in the last newsletter, we would know by this newsletter who our presidential candidate will be. Senator John McCain is our presidential candidate. I understand that he was not the first choice of many of our members, and that many of you have reservations about his record of being less than conservative. Let me take a moment to try to put your minds at ease. Sen. McCain will be strong on most issues that conservatives hold dear. He will stand with our troops and will settle for nothing less than victory in Iraq. He is pro-life, and is on record voting to confirm Supreme Court Justices Scalia, Thomas, Roberts and Alito. Any potential McCain Supreme Court nominee will be in the same vein as these fine justices. With regard to the second amendment, Sen. McCain believes that law-biding citizens have a right to keep and bear arms, and that gun control is a proven failure. No one has been tougher on wasteful earmarks, as he has opposed them all. He is a seasoned, battle tested, highly experienced candidate who will keep our country on the right path. And lastly, let me say that the two liberal/socialistic Democratic alternatives to Sen. McCain would be absolutely disastrous for our country. We can't sit by the sidelines and allow Sen. Clinton or Sen. Obama to gain access to the White House. I urge you to please get on board and help us keep the Democrats out of the White House.

There are some very important races that will be decided on Election Day, April 1. Among these is the race for State Supreme Court Justice. As most of you know, Judge Mike Gableman is running for the position now held by Louis Butler, a Jim Doyle appointee. Justice Butler was heavily involved in the infamous "lead paint" decision, which was very harmful to businesses and ultimately to the citizens of Wisconsin. Judge Gableman would bring common sense and consistent administration of the law to the high court. He has been endorsed by 70% of law enforcement officials and DA's. Please help spread the word and vote for Judge Gableman on April 1.

I would like to encourage all Washington County GOP delegates to attend the 5th Congressional District Caucus and the State Convention. Washington County is always well represented at these events, so please see the "upcoming dates" section of the newsletter and mark your calendars now.

Finally, I must step away from the political forum for a

moment to say goodbye to Brett Favre. We have been truly privileged to watch a player of his magnitude lead the Packers for the past sixteen seasons. Players who transcend the game come along very rarely. Thanks for all the thrills, highlights and special memories that will be with us for many years to come.

*Jim Geldreich, Chairman
 Washington County GOP*



Calling all Republican Women!

We are currently holding our Saturday Morning breakfast meetings at various members' homes and is a great place to meet other like-minded Republican Women. Very often, our legislators come to give us an update on what is happening in Madison. It is very informative so please join us! Our breakfast is held every second Saturday of the month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

One of our very favorite programs that we are actively working on is "Support our Troops." We are currently sending care packages to four (4) Washington County soldiers stationed in Iraq. Remember the success of this program depends on the generosity of so many. We are looking for items and/or money that can be sent to our troops in Iraq or Afghanistan. If you are interested in participating, you may bring your donated items to any of the Saturday Morning Breakfasts. You can also drop off items at Carolyn Turner's (Support Our Troops Chairperson) home. Carolyn's address is 619 N. 18th Avenue, West Bend, 53090, 262/337-3688.

Remember to look at our website. We are connected to the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women's website. Go to www.wifrw.org. Once there, click on County Clubs, then click on Washington. We will keep this updated with upcoming events and other items of interest.

*Diane Ambroziak, President
 Washington County Republican Women*

WCRP Executive Committee

Chairman:	Jim Geldreich
Vice-Chairman:	Kathy Kiernan
Secretary:	Jim Benware
Treasurer:	Jennie Frederick

Meetings are held monthly on every third Tuesday at 7 pm at county party headquarters, 519 Hickory St., West Bend. Any party member is welcome to attend.



Legislative Report

Rep. Pat Strachota

As chair of the Assembly Jobs and the Economy committee, I know that of all the issues we deal with in the Legislature, none have more impact on the daily lives of our constituents than economic development. At a time when the nation's economy is teetering on the edge, Wisconsin should be doing all that we can to lure new businesses to our state and retain the ones we do have.

As we near the end of our 2007-09 legislative floor period, the Assembly and the Governor have put aside partisan differences and are working together on an aggressive economic development agenda to enable Wisconsin's economy to pick up speed while it continues to grow.

At the same time the Governor and Assembly are working hard to fix our stagnant economy, Senate Democrats try to sabotage our efforts by proposing huge tax increases for Wisconsin-based businesses.

Forbes recently compared all 50 states to determine which states were best for businesses and Wisconsin was near the bottom of the list. Their report card said we need to address our tax climate, our regulatory and litigation climate, as well as providing a more well-trained and educated workforce for employers to be more competitive nationally.

The Republican economic development agenda addresses all these areas. However, the plan by the Senate Democrats simply spends money the state does not have and does nothing to create jobs or grow our economy

The Senate Democrat plan for economic development primarily increases taxes on employers in Wisconsin. Combined reporting and closing the so-called "Vegas loophole" do nothing more than make our already unattractive business climate even uglier for businesses.

Whether deciding to stay in Wisconsin or figuring out if they want to move here, companies will not be favorably impressed with an increased tax burden when we are already in the bottom ten nationally for business climate.

In contrast, the Republican plan is based on tax credits, meaning companies have to come here and make money and create jobs before they reap the benefits of our economic incentive plans. The tax credit model is a win-win for companies and the state's economy.

The Republican economic development agenda contains several pieces of legislation that will: give more flexibility to the very successful Angel Investment Tax Credit program (AB 557, AB 598 and AB 817); eliminate the capital gains when the money is reinvested in Wisconsin businesses (AB 671); streamline and consolidate our economic development programs and provides more transparency and accountability (AB 741 and AB 794); and creates tax credits for businesses that invest in new research and innovation (AB 696 and AB 770). I am pleased to have worked on these initiatives with my fellow Washington County Republican colleagues, Senators Ted Kanavas and Alberta Darling and Representative Sue Jeskewitz.

The bottom line is that we need to continue to work

hard to attract enough investment capital to fund the wonderful ideas that come out of, or spin-off from, our universities, businesses, farms and factories. Encouraging investment in our state's up and coming new businesses is an important investment in our state's economic future. As a result, our state will benefit in terms of job growth which will lead to increased future tax revenue.

The Assembly has passed each of these bills on an overwhelmingly bi-partisan manner and as the clock ticks down we await action by the Senate Democrats. Ultimately, I hope they see that a bi-partisan pro-business, pro-investment agenda is the key to a robust economic future for our state.



Legislative Report

Darling Encouraging Retirees, Graduates to "Stay In Wisconsin"

To be from Wisconsin is to love Wisconsin, but there's also something driving retirees, students, and middle-class families away. It might just be the weather for some, but it's the tax climate or lack of job opportunities for others.

We can't change the weather, but we can lower taxes and create incentives for job creation. To make Wisconsin a more attractive place for seniors and student graduates to live, work and play, I've developed a package of initiatives called "Stay in Wisconsin."

The retirement package portion of Stay in Wisconsin will make various tax changes for seniors to make Wisconsin a more attractive place to retire. Some of my proposals are permanently eliminating the estate tax, eliminating taxes on retirement income and increasing the property tax credit for seniors.

My plan to stem the "brain drain" of our best and brightest college graduates leaving the state includes making student loan interest 100% tax deductible.

There is a stark difference between the economic development plans offered by the Republicans and the Democrats. Republicans are pushing for lower taxes, incentives to spur venture capital investment and the improving Wisconsin's reputation as a place with a legal climate that can be hostile to business. The Democrats' ideas for "helping" our economic center around tax increases and government mandates.

I will continue working hard in Madison to lower taxes and make Wisconsin a better place for job growth.

Election Day – April 1

Tuesday, April 1 is Election Day in Wisconsin. Several races of note will be on the ballot. The race for State Supreme Court will be decided, as Judge Mike Gableman will be attempting to unseat Louis Butler. Many of our Washington County Republicans are running for local seats. Among these are Kris Deiss, who is running for a full term as mayor of West Bend, Tony Turner, who is running for alderman in West Bend, Keith Dunavant, who is running for alderman in Hartford, Marilyn Merten, who is running for a County Board seat, Bruce Koenig, who is running for school board in West Bend, and Diane Pederson, who is running for village president in Richfield. Please help our members get elected, so they can carry out our conservative views throughout the county.



Vice Chairman's Corner

June 7 – "Victory Starts Here" Event

On June 7, we will hold our annual fundraising event. The event will be held at KC Hall in West Bend...from 6:00 – 10:30 PM. It will be jointly sponsored by the Washington County Republican Party and the Washington County Republican Women. This is the event we usually held the last Saturday in January. We will have a silent auction, a live auction, music, our usual fabulous buffet by Bryan. All our candidates, legislators and officials will be invited to bring their nomination papers with perhaps extra copies for helpers to take back to their communities.

Our theme "Victory Starts Here" is our kick-off for the campaign season. We will lead the way from Washington County - the "heart" of Wisconsin to wherever our candidates are headed. This is always a very fun evening with great auction items, wonderful food and a good time to catch up with friends.

We are looking for a few people to help with the event. If you'd like to be on our committee, please contact Kathy at (262) 628-3500.

Most importantly...we need **auction items/or cash donations** to purchase items. The money we make on our auction helps pay the rent for our GOP office.

Kathy Kiernan – Vice Chairman

Looking for Young Republicans and College Republicans

We have a frame work for Young Republicans in our county. We would like to also incorporate College Republicans into this group. If there are Young Republicans or College Republicans interested in joining this group, please contact Kathy at (262) 628-3500.

Help needed for "GET OUT THE VOTE" phone calls

If you could help for just a few hours to make phone calls prior to the April 1st election, please contact Kathy (262) 628-3500.

Lincoln Day Brunch Wrapup

What would a winter Washington County GOP event be without some adverse weather? Eighty Washington County GOP delegates braved sub-zero temperatures and blowing snow to attend the 2008 Lincoln Day Brunch at Wegner's Cedar Lake Inn in February. It was a day of spirited political debate, mixed with good food and drink. Twenty resolutions were passed, including one commemorating the service of Congressman Sensenbrenner to Washington County and his country. Keynote speaker Rep. Mike Huebsch drove 195 blustery miles from La Crosse to spend some time with us. Scott Walker and Judge Mike Gableman also shared their thoughts with the delegation. Republican party unity was the central theme of the day. Thanks to everyone involved in making this event another success.

Americans for Prosperity

Twelve Washington County Republicans recently attended the Americans for Prosperity "Defending the American Dream" Summit in Pewaukee. AFP is the nation's premiere grassroots organization that is fighting for free-market policies and limited government.



Gordy Sailer, Rep. Leah Vukmir and Del Ellefson at the AFP Summit".

The AFP's main mission is to educate citizens about economic policy, enabling them to mobilize and spread their message to their local communities and states. The all-star slate of speakers included Tim Phillips (AFP President), Congressman Paul Ryan, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, Attorney General JB Van Hollen, Milwaukee Co. Executive Scott Walker, Judge Mike Gableman, Sheriff David Clarke, former Lieutenant Governor Margaret Farrow, Rep. Leah Vukmir, WISN talk show host Vicki McKenna, as well as Washington County's own Owen Robinson. Special guest speakers included author and Wall Street Journal editorial board member Steve Moore and bestselling author and former Reagan White House policy analyst Dinesh D'Souza. All who attended were captivated by the uplifting positive message echoed throughout the day.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Gayle Klaus

Our member spotlight this month falls on Gayle Klaus. Gayle has been a member of the Washington County GOP since 1951. Yes, you read that correctly! Gayle's political life began in 1948 as she worked on Harold Stassen's presidential campaign. Stassen was the governor of Minnesota at the time and a friend of Gayle's father. In 1950, Gayle and her family moved to Wisconsin and she next worked on President Eisenhower's presidential campaign in 1952. Back then, most of the campaign work was done door-to-door and with radio and newspaper advertising. Gayle became vice-chairman of the Washington County GOP in 1958. In the sixties, Gayle worked on several Republican candidates' campaigns including Senator Alexander Wiley, Congressman Bill Steiger, Congress-man Bill Van Pelt, and 1964 presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. Campaigns back then were more fun to work on says Gayle. Fundraising was simpler and not as stringent as it is now. Gayle collected donations for the Van Pelt campaign using a mayonnaise jar, which she eventually took to the West Bend News to pay for a full page campaign ad for him. When asked about what's different in political campaigns today compared to the past, Gayle said, "There's much more emphasis on money today. Years ago, people gave of their time, and not so much their money." Over the years, Gayle has met and talked with many political figures and celebrities, including having a drink with Barry Goldwater and meeting President Nixon. One of her favorite memories is the phone call she received from high profile conservative journalist William F. Buckley. It may have been the only time in her life when she was speechless! Washington County has evolved into a very conservative county according to Gayle, and she will be working with Jim Geldreich the next several months to write a history of the Washington County Republican Party.