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GOP REPORT

Washington County Republican Party

519 Hickory St., P.O. Box 671

West Bend WI 53095

262-334-4150

www.washingtoncountygop.org

Spring 2018

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Paid for by the Republican Party of Washington County,
Diane Ambroziak, Treasurer

Washington County Republican Women

Every 2nd Saturday – Breakfast and political talk. Programs several times a year. Held at restaurants around the county as well as several members' homes 9:00-10:30am. Locations listed in monthly newsletter.

Monthly Executive Board Meetings – 1st Wednesday of the month 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

May 11-13, 2018

RPW State Convention
Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee

June 7, 2018

Pints & Politics/General Membership meeting
Hitching Post, Kohlsville

July 24-29, 2018

Washington County Fair

August 14, 2018

Primary Election Day

August 25, 2018

WCRP Annual Fundraiser
Columbian Banquet Hall

November 6, 2018

Election Day

January 26, 2019

Lincoln Day Brunch & Caucus
Columbian Banquet Hall

Chairman's Corner



Of the many developments statewide and nationwide the past few weeks, none was larger than Speaker Paul Ryan announcing he will not seek reelection. While many a career go to die in the House Speaker position, Paul Ryan's announcement had virtually nothing to do with his political future. Being a man of

deep faith and devotion to his family, his decision was truly heartfelt. Accepting positions he never actually sought out, Paul Ryan stepped up to answer his party's call of duty back in 2015 when it needed a speaker, as he also did back in 2012 when asked to be Mitt Romney's vice-presidential running mate. He was the consummate team player. Paul Ryan's roots are midwest roots, as was always evident when he spoke with the media or on the national stage. No self-aggrandizing comments ever came from him. We truly had the sense that he was our guy. The WCRP will greatly miss Paul Ryan's presence. We thank him for his service to the country, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

Staying on the topic of retirements from office, the WCRP thanks Sheriff Dale Schmidt for his service to Washington County the past 12 years. Dale was responsible for many positive developments within the sheriff's department during his tenure. We wish Dale the best in his future endeavors as well.

One campaign we can't lose sight of is the Attorney General's race. Current AG Brad Schimel has a well-financed Democrat opponent who has served as an attorney for Hillary Clinton, and whose firm was paid \$3.6 million by the Democratic National Committee. AG Schimel's office has defended numerous Republican pieces of legislation, including Act 10, when lawsuits are brought by the left. We cannot allow this office to fall into Democrat hands, or we will have no defense when the left tries to bring down all the Walker era achievements.

I also want to congratulate Rick Gundrum on his victory in the 58th Assembly District special election back in January. Rick is a great addition to our legislative team in Washington County and brings a wide range of talents and experience to the state assembly. He is making his way around the district, introducing himself, and listening to his new constituents.

Lastly, let's do what we can collectively to stem this media invented "Blue Wave". We have a great story to tell in Wisconsin – please don't be shy in proclaiming it. There are so many accomplishments by Governor Walker and GOP legislature it's easy to become apathetic. Bottom line - it makes no sense to turn this state over to the left after all that has been achieved since 2011. I think we would all agree on that. An early Happy Mother's Day to all the WCRP moms out there. We'll see you on the campaign trail this summer!

*Jim Geldreich, Chairman
Washington County GOP*

WCRW Report



Washington County Republican Women currently have 93 renewed members. At our January breakfast, we installed our new officers, and confirmed our returning officers, President Maryann Rathke, Vice President Mary Jo Thompson, Secretary Kathy O'Connell, and Treasure Marie Graziano.

We completed our first round of Sweets and Treats for our First Responders. We started the second round in February. We started with the three fire stations in West Bend. The month of March we visited the Washington County Sheriff's department and West Bend Police Department. In April we visited the Richfield Fire department.

At our March breakfast we held a baby shower for the Seed of Hope Center. We had a table full of much needed items such as diapers, baby wipes, baby clothes, and monetary donations. This was a huge success for them, as all monetary donations were matched during the month of March.

Our Support the Troops sent boxes out in December for Christmas. We plan on sending boxes out again in June.

We are also collecting "Cans for Fisher House." We are continuing to raise money by collecting aluminum cans from our members and sending money to the Fisher House.

We also scheduled our Fall Gala, September 28, 2018. Our guest speaker will be Rick Graber. Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend.

Many of our members participated in the Spring election for Justice Michael Screnock by making phone calls, handing out flyers, and knocking doors.

*Maryann Rathke, President
Washington County Republican Women*

WCRP Office

Beginning in June, the WCRP office will tentatively be open daily. It is likely that at some point the RPW will base one of their Field Directors in West Bend. We will need to be visible and vigilant this campaign cycle. The left is fired up and will focus their efforts on defeating our candidates from the assembly level, all the way up to Governor Walker. Washington County is expected to run up the numbers, so we need to work hard for our candidates. If you can help us by working a shift at the office, please contact Jim or Kathy.

WCRP Executive Committee

Chairman: Jim Geldreich **Vice-Chairman:** Randy Marquardt

Secretary: Helen Trudeau **Treasurer:** Diane Ambroziak

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.



WCRP's table at the West Bend Gun Show



WCRP knocks on doors with Judge Michael Screnock



5th District Caucus

The WCRP had a strong showing at the 5th District Caucus March 18 with 41 delegates in attendance – most in the district. Fifth district chairman Kathy Kiernan hosted the program which included the official nomination of Congressman Sensenbrenner. WCRP's Jim Geldreich gave the second nominating speech for the congressman. There were also speeches by Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, First Lady Tonette Walker, the RPW's Mark Morgan and Judge Michael Screnock. Kudos to Kathy Kiernan on a great event.



Chairman Jim speaks at the 5th District Caucus



58th District's new assemblyman Rick Gundrum



Governor Walker speaks at the Lincoln Day Brunch

SUMMER FUNDRAISER

Please mark your calendars now for Saturday, August 25. That is the date of our annual fundraiser at the Columbian Banquet Hall. Although not officially named as of yet, our theme will be focused on the positive accomplishments in Wisconsin by Governor Walker and the Republican legislature. As in the past, we will have the Chinese raffle and the live auction. There may also be some surprises as well. We are working on some special guests to share the evening with us, but more to come on that later. If you can donate a raffle prize, please contact Jim or Kathy, or leave a message at the WCRP office, (262) 334-4150.

STATE CONVENTION

For those of you who are delegates, you should've received your GOP state convention registration form in the mail by now. You may register online as well. If you are not a delegate, you may still attend the convention, the only difference is that you cannot be seated on the convention floor. This should be a great event, with Governor Walker's reelection, and the party nomination for U.S. Senate up for a vote from the delegates. Washington County always has a strong showing at the state convention.



Vice Chairman's Corner

A year ago, I wrote about the ongoing changes in the news media. I think the continuing narrative of "fake news" has been proven accurate, and a significant number of Americans (over 40% in recent polls) have become skeptical of media sources, and the accuracy and lack of impartiality of those providing it. We saw another aspect of ongoing change with the recent eruption of controversy regarding the use of Facebook data by the Trump campaign. Ironically, similar use of data by Obama's team four years prior, was just a sign of their genius. While Facebook does not produce "news", they are a distributor of such information, and to probably the largest captive audience in the world. As such, they wield incredible power in terms of what is shared and what is not. That fact, even more than user's personal privacy issues, is the concern for future political campaigns, especially those of us on the conservative side. I do not see any kind of equivalent balance that can reach the swing voters in the middle of the political spectrum. More than a decade ago, this sea-change hit the advertising business. The internet disturbed long-held societal norms and people's habits changed in the way they accessed and received information. For advertisers, that necessitated a new strategy in how their clients reached potential consumers – no longer were TV, radio and newspaper ads the staple they once were. In politics, we are also advertisers, and we need to find the best way to get our message out.

We know social media has become a primary link to the outside world. Many people do not get newspapers any longer, watch TV by streaming and listen to something other than broadcast radio in their cars. This is usually intentional, to avoid ads and news. Their only source of news becomes the often-fake, "click-bait" stories that appear in social media, or conversations with friends, family and co-workers. Each of us must strive to be that source of information to as many people as possible, as it is still the most effective way to convince them of our cause.

*Randy Marquardt, Vice Chairman
Washington County GOP*



Lt. Governor Report

Wisconsin's unemployment rate is at a historic low (2.9%). As I travel across the state, this is echoed by business owners who say that they need more workers, especially in our agricultural and construction industries. To get more Wisconsinites in the workforce, we need to look outside our traditional talent pipeline. The state is answering this call in the graduation I attended on Thursday at John Burke Correctional in Waupun. Eight men were presented with Dairy Worker Training Certificates. Our Waupun Dairy, along with Moraine Park Technical College, gave them access to skills like milking, feeding, and cow reproduction. This certificate will give these future workers a credential to use in gaining employment in an industry that is struggling for help. That same day I sat down with folks from the Department of Corrections, Department of Workforce Development and home builders to talk about ways we could educate another pipeline of construction talent. Especially with the arrival of Foxconn, we need all hands on deck in Wisconsin.

Our commitment to countering opioids is unwavering. This week I addressed the Wisconsin Opioid Forum put on by our Department of Health Services. The large conference space was packed full with health care providers, law enforcement, and health departments to look at the opioid epidemic from a national to local level. The forum was a great opportunity for all of these stakeholders to learn more on evidence-based practices and how to implement them within our state. Last week my Opioid Task Force co-chairman Rep. John Nygren and I hosted another Opioids Task Force meeting, hearing from a variety of people that provide care and non-opioid pain treatment. I was particularly fascinated by the relative cost v. Non-addictive benefits of acupuncture, chiropractics and physical therapy as pain treatment first resorts.

Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch



State Senate Report

Wisconsin's unemployment rate continues to be at an all-time low. After adding nearly 9,000 jobs in March, unemployment remains at 2.9%. That's the lowest we've ever recorded and well below the national rate of 4.1%! In addition, Wisconsin has one of the lowest Veteran unemployment rates in the country at 1.2%! More people are working in our state than ever before and that number is growing even higher! Wisconsin added nearly 20,000 jobs in the first quarter of 2018. Speaking of jobs, candy-maker Haribo says they may create 1,000 more jobs than they expected. Originally, they anticipated hiring 350 workers for their Pleasant Prairie facility. It's important to point out that Haribo picked Wisconsin for their first plant in America over seven different locations in Illinois. This is not an accident. Employers are coming here because we've reformed government, balanced our budget, and invested in our future. Wisconsin is open for business again! This week, I joined Governor Scott Walker to lower the tax burden in our state. Thanks to the Governor's signature, hardworking taxpayers will now have a five-day sales tax holiday in August, and parents will receive a tax rebate of \$100 per child. That's real tax relief for working families. This adds to more than \$8 billion in tax relief Republicans have delivered since 2011.

As always, if you have any concerns or ideas on how to improve our great state, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 608-266-5830 or by email at Sen.Darling@legis.wi.gov. On Wisconsin!

-Sen. Alberta Darling



Campaign Report

Here are the results of the April 3 election in Washington County: Voter turnout – 36.67%. Supreme Court candidate Michael Screnock – 19,925 votes for 69.28% of the total votes. The State Referendum to eliminate the office of State Treasurer – Yes – 16,156 votes for 59.01%. Yes was the correct vote. Thank you to Washington County for doing our part and getting it right. The Republican Party in Wisconsin has a great story to tell since we've been in the majority with Governor Walker leading the way. Everyone knows all the big things, but there is always more to do and to keep moving forward. Our legislators have worked hard to pass legislation that has made Wisconsin a great place to live and do business.

This year we have a lot of work to do and a lot of candidates to re-elected. Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Kleefisch, Attorney General Schimel at the state level.

Congressman Sensenbrenner needs our help to continue the good work in the U.S. House of Representatives. Then we have our local candidates: Rep. Janel Brandtjen 22nd A.D. has a primary challenger. His name is Nathan Dosch from Menomonee Falls and is not a party member. Washington County supports our incumbents. We have an open election in Rep. Kremer's 59th A.D.. As of this moment – there are four candidates: Rachel Mixon from Hartford, Ty Bodden, from St. Cloud, Tim Ramthun from Campbellsport and Ken Depperman from Campbellsport. Rick Gundrum is running for his seat in the 58th A.D. Rob Brooks is running for his seat in the 60th A.D., Dan Knoll is running for his seat in 24th A.D.

Please help all our candidates gather their nomination signatures. We have two candidates for U.S. Senate – State Senator Leah Vukmir and businessman and former Marine Kevin Nicholson. The delegates at our State RPW convention will be voting to endorse one of these candidates. However – they must gain 60% of the delegates votes to win. If one of them does not get 60% - there will be no endorsement. We also have several county races on our ballot. Theresa Russell is running for re-election as Clerk of Courts. Our Sheriff Dale Schmidt is retiring. Two candidates are running for this position. They are Marty Schulteis and Jason Guslick.

*Kathy Kiernan
Campaign Chairman*