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Washington County Republican Party  
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www.washingtoncountygop.org

Fall 2019

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

## Chairman's Corner



The year 2019 is drawing to a close. This may have seemed like an off year, but the election of Brian Hagedorn to the State Supreme Court last April was a very significant accomplishment for the conservative movement in Wisconsin. If we had allowed this election to slip away, it would've set the stage for a potential liberal takeover of the high court in 2020. Looking to spring of 2020, we will be working hard to maintain Justice Dan Kelly's seat on the State Supreme Court. You can bet the liberals will be after this seat, like they always are, and we need to remain vigilant to ensure Justice Kelly gets a full ten year term. Along with this election will be the Court of Appeals race, in which Paul Bugenhagen is attempting to unseat Lisa Neubauer. If that name sounds familiar, Neubauer is the liberal who was defeated by Brian Hagedorn. This is the perfect opportunity to remove her from the bench permanently.

Continuing a series of rather unexpected GOP retirements, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner recently announced he will retire from the House of Representatives at the end of his current term. Thus ends one of the longest running congressional tours of duty in Wisconsin history. Those of us who have gotten to know Congressman Sensenbrenner have appreciated his devotion to the conservative cause over the span of 40 years. No one has had the level of contact with their districts as he has, and the numbers prove that time and again. While it would be easy for him to let off the accelerator this last year, he recently announced another slate of town hall meetings. Through his gruff exterior, Congressman Sensenbrenner has a heart of gold, and cares deeply about his district. I know that he has always considered Washington County a special place. He has been our friend, mentor and a powerful conservative leader. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him and Cheryl the best in their retirement years.

With the open congressional seat, it is important to remind everyone that the WCRP is neutral in open primaries. At the moment, there is only one declared candidate in Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, however if other candidates officially declare, we will allow them to appear at our events and have their campaign literature at our office. This primary will be August, 11, 2020.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to working together in 2020 to help get conservative candidates elected, and to make sure President Trump is elected to a second term.

*Jim Geldreich, Chairman • Washington County GOP*

## WCRW Report



It is hard to believe it is the start of the Holiday Season. Looking back in the past year the WCRW have been very busy. We worked hard to help Justice Hagedorn win the supreme court race. Our members knocked on doors, made signs, and made phone calls. We were able to celebrate the win by attending the Investiture of Justice Hagedorn. We gathered and delivered sweets and treats for our local Fire, Police and Sheriff departments. We worked with the WCRP at the farmers market, Independence Day parades, County fair and gun shows. In September I was able to attend the National Federation of Republican Women convention. Our club received the Gold achievement award. It was my honor to accept it. At the convention I met a lot of great like-minded Republican women from across the country. During conversations we exchanged state pins. The Wisconsin pin is a white pin of the state with a yellow rose. Our pin was designed to represent the first state to ratify the 19th amendment, the women's right to vote. It was fun telling the story of our great state being the first to ratify the 19th amendment. As we move forward to the holiday season and enjoy time with family and friends, I would like to take the time to thank everyone for their hard work. Please take time to remember our first responders, fire, police, sheriff departments, soldiers, and legislators both state and federal and our President in your thoughts or prayers.

*Maryann Rathke, President  
 Washington County Republican Women*

## POLL WORKERS

The WCRP is currently in the process of reviewing and updating our paid poll worker lists for every municipality in the county. Many of you already work at the polls, but if anybody is interested in being a paid poll worker in your municipality, please call our office at (262) 334-4150. To be a paid poll worker, you must be a paid member of the WCRP and be willing to work at the polls for the entire day on Election Day. More than ever, it is critical that we have our own people working at the polls. Each municipality must staff their polling place with people from the list the WCRP submits to them. Thanks to our precincts and wards chairman Sandy Banovich for all her efforts.

## 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.

## 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](http://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](mailto:jgeld@charter.net) with a subject line GOP Newsletter or leave a message at our office phone 262-334-4150.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 5, 2019**

**Pints & Politics, Mueller's Linden Inn**

**February 9, 2020**

**Lincoln Day Brunch and Caucus,  
 Columbian Banquet Hall**

**March 27-29, 2020**

**Bob & Rocco Gun Show,  
 Washington County Fairgrounds**

**April 26, 2020**

**5th Congressional Caucus, site TBA**

**May 15-17, 2020**

**RPW State Convention, KI Center, Green Bay**

**October 24, 2020**

**Annual WCRP Fundraiser, Columbian Banquet Hall**



Former Justice Mike Gableman speaks to the WCRP



Rep. Rick Gundrum proposes a toast at the WCRP Fundraiser



Washington County legislators speak at Pints & Politics

## GOP BIRTHDAY PARTY

The WCRP held its annual fundraiser in September at the Columbian Banquet Hall. Our theme this year was “Happy 165th Birthday to the Republican Party”. The event was well attended and there was an exceptional slate of raffle prizes, as well as a raucous live auction with our legislators with auctioneer Rep. Dan Knodl. However the evening was highlighted by a very special speech from former State Supreme Court Justice Mike Gableman, who thanked Washington County for everything we did to help get Brian Hagedorn elected last spring. Our special guest speaker for the event was former WTMJ and current Arizona conservative talk radio host James T. Harris. James gave an epic, flame-throwing 30 minute speech that will be indelibly etched upon our minds for a very long time. The WCRP thanks James for coming up to West Bend from Phoenix to spend the evening with us, and to everyone on the host committee whose additional donations helped us get him here. And finally thanks to everyone who attended, bought raffle tickets, and bid on the live auction items. The success of this event is critical for the WCRP to meet our budgetary needs each year.



James T. Harris delivers an unforgettable speech at the WCRP Fundraiser



2019 WCRP Parade Float takes 3rd Place at the Allenton Parade

## WOMEN FOR TRUMP COALITION

If you are interested in helping with the Women For Trump Coalition – please email Kathy Kiernan (katzkiernan@att.net) or call (262) 628-3500. Right now – we are holding MAGA Meetings and talking about the issues. We are also looking for people to write Letters to the Editor. If you want to be involved in any way you can contact Kathy.

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP

We are currently in the process of our 2020 membership drive. Membership renewals will be mailed out to all current WCRP members shortly after you receive this newsletter. To make things easier on our treasurer and membership chairman, we ask that you please promptly return your renewals. You may also renew your membership securely online through our website at [www.washingtoncountygop.org](http://www.washingtoncountygop.org) which will direct you to the Patriot site for payment. Our membership has been slowly declining the past few years, so we really need everybody to renew and to recruit a few new members to join our team! Folks are reluctant to join organizations, and may need a nudge from one of us. In addition, many people are not aware that we even exist. To dispel a frequently heard myth, if you donate to or join the state Republican Party that does not make you a member of the WCRP. It all starts at the county level. In order to become a GOP delegate, you must first be a county party member, and then become active in the party. If anyone has further questions on membership, please contact our office at (262) 334-4150. Otherwise we hope to have all hands on deck for the 2020 election cycle!



## Vice Chairman's Corner

We conservatives are always asking ourselves why we cannot find qualified candidates to run for public office, why government cannot run like a business, and why good things cannot get accomplished. In my opinion, rather than encouraging our best and brightest people to enter public service, we make it difficult – the system is designed to be frustrating to quick action, and we are automatically suspicious of successful people from the private sector moving into government. Exceptions that come to mind are Vice President Cheney, candidate Mitt Romney and of course President Trump. Closer to home, Senator Johnson took extraordinary measures to distance himself from his own business and his integrity was still questioned. I am amazed, but we are blessed when men like these step forward to serve us. Well, we now also have a local example.

Mayor Kraig Sadownikow was elected very much because of his impressive business background. He restructured West Bend city government in an efficient manner, streamlined departments, outsourced work that made sense, and reduced debt by changing the way "things were always done". He involved other local business owners in value task-force committees and found better ways to deliver city services. Now, as a result of trying to also run his local contracting business, with Mark Belling's recent, public highlighting of the mere potential for impropriety, he has decided to step down. It is not surprising – but frankly, it is unfortunate.

Despite what I just said above, or more so because of it, we need good people willing to serve – lest we be governed solely by idiots. Do we really want inexperienced people, or private-sector failures, making decisions and rules for the rest of us? I don't think so. Very soon, candidates for local offices will begin their campaigns for election in April. I urge anyone that reads this to consider running for an office. As a friend told me, “if you're at all thinking about it, just do it...you won't regret the experience.” After serving on my local school board, I can assure you he was right!

Finally, I'd like to publicly thank our fellow WCRP member, Kraig Sadownikow, as well as our other members who serve or have served in local elected positions, for their time and dedication in upholding our conservative values in government.

*Randy Marquardt, Vice Chairman  
Washington County GOP*



## Campaign Report

Official paperwork for spring non-partisan races can be taken out now. Gathering signatures for these offices can start December 1, 2019. Signatures must be turned in on January 7, 2020. This includes Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice – Daniel Kelly. We'll be looking for help gathering those signatures. We'll also probably be asking for help either passing out our literature and/or knocking on doors. We are also looking for people to write “Letters to the Editor”. If you can help - please contact Kathy Kiernan (katzkiernan@att.net) or call (262) 628-3500. There will also be an election for Washington County Executive on the spring ballot.

*Kathy Kiernan, Campaign Chairman*



## Assembly Report

The topic of gun control has been one of the most prevalent debates in our country over the past few months. There have been a few proposals put forward by Democratic members of the Legislature they claim would be part of the solution to gun violence in our state, namely universal background checks and red flag gun laws. Republicans have remained steadfast in our commitment to upholding the Second Amendment and protecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Now, a new development has occurred, as Governor Evers called for the Legislature to convene a special session to address the issue of gun control.

I have already expressed my firm opposition to gun control measures, especially red flag gun laws. Put simply, I will not support, nor stand idly by, as measures are put forward which would trample the Second Amendment. In addition, measures like red flag gun laws show complete disregard for the Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, and the Fifth Amendment protection of due process. Many of you have contacted my office urging me to vote against any gun control measures, and I will proudly do just that.

It's a bit hypocritical that those who routinely champion abortion now, all of a sudden, care so deeply about the sanctity of life. Protecting life is not the true motivation behind these proposals, however, it's simply to chip away at the Second Amendment bit by bit. If left unchecked, opponents of gun rights will continue to chip away at it until there's basically nothing left. One only needs to listen to some Democratic presidential candidates, like Beto O'Rourke, to see just how a large portion of the Democratic Party truly feels about the Second Amendment.

*Rep. Tim Ramthun, 59th Assembly District*

## RNC NATIONAL CONVENTION

The RNC national convention for the 2020 presidential campaign will be held in Charlotte, NC from August 24-27, 2020. The WCRP is allowed to send up to three national convention nominees to the 5th CD caucus, where they must campaign against other county nominees to represent the 5th district at the national convention. Three delegates and three alternate delegates for the 5th congressional district will be chosen at the 2020 5th CD Caucus. The WCRP has a policy for who is eligible to run for national delegate. An eligible candidate MUST: be a current WCRP delegate for at least one year and a WCRP member in good standing for at least two years. They must complete an application, and be prepared to give a campaign speech at the WCRP caucus on Feb. 9, 2020 at the Columbian Banquet Hall. If they are chosen at the WCRP caucus, they must be willing to attend and give a campaign speech at the 2020 5th CD caucus on April 26, 2020. If they are chosen there by the 5th district delegation, they must sign an affidavit and commit to attending the RNC national convention, which includes financial responsibility for convention registration fees, airline transportation fees, hotel expenses, meals and all other miscellaneous expenses. All national delegates are required stay at the hotel designated by the Republican Party of Wisconsin. Expenses can be expected to be in the range of \$3000.00 - \$4000.00 per person. Finally, all WCRP national delegates must support the 5th congressional district's nominated presidential candidate. Anyone who meets the above requirements and is interested in running for national delegate, may contact Chairman Jim Geldreich by no later than November 30, 2019 at (262) 707-6686 or [jgeld@charter.net](mailto:jgeld@charter.net).