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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.

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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

January 16, 2018

General Election for 58th Assembly Seat

January, 28, 2018

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

February 15, 2018

Pints & Politics (tentative)

February 20, 2018

Spring Primary Election Day

March 16-18 , 2018

Washington County Gun Show

March 18, 2018

5th Congressional District Caucus (site TBD)

April 4, 2018

Spring General Election Day

May 11-13, 2018

RPW State Convention, Hyatt Hotel, Milwaukee

August 4, 2018

Annual Fundraiser, Columbian Banquet Hall



Chairman's Corner

As we close the door on 2017, I reflect upon a year filled with significant accomplishments for the Republican Party. To begin with, President Trump was sworn into office in January 2017. Shortly thereafter, Judge Neil Gorsuch was nominated to fill a vacancy on the US Supreme Court.

He was later confirmed and now is a sitting Supreme Court Justice, which will have a profound impact on this country for decades to come. Among other accomplishments by the president in 2017 include the travel ban, withdrawal from the Paris agreement and trans-Pacific partnerships, and most recently the tax cut bill. In addition, the stock market hit an all-time high in 2017. On a worldwide level, the United States is again seen as a strong nation.

On the statewide scene, Governor Walker continued his remarkable leadership by brokering the Foxconn deal, which will be a financial boon to Wisconsin the likes of which we have never seen before. With his message that more needs to be accomplished, Governor Walker announced his re-election bid in the fall of 2017. As we usher out 2017, unemployment is now below 4% thanks largely to Republican legislation and leadership. The Wisconsin State Supreme Court saw the unopposed reelection of West Bend's own Judge Annette Ziegler in 2017, who now begins her second ten year term. Wisconsin's Republican National Committeeman Steve King was named Ambassador to the Czech Republic in 2017. Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner held 115 town hall meetings in 2017 – dozens more than any of the other 434 congressmen in the country!

Locally, the elected state delegation from Washington County was very instrumental in the state budget process in 2017, as well as drafting legislation for the good of the county and the state. On a sad note, we unexpectedly lost Rep. Bob Gannon in 2017, but his warm heart and fighting spirit will live on in Washington County for many years to come.

The WCRP was a finalist for the Top County Award in 2017, and we continue to be a blueprint for other counties to follow. Crystal Berg became RPW 1st Vice Chairman in 2017, and Kathy Kiernan continues to serve as 5th District Chairman and RPW Party Development Chairman. In 2017, Washington County continued to have the largest Republican Women's club in the entire state.

Happy New Year to you and your families! I look forward to a prosperous and successful 2018.

*Jim Geldreich, Chairman,
Washington County Republican Party*



WCRW Report

Our club ended 2017 with 137 members. We hosted 65 attendees at our December breakfast at Johnny Manhattan's Restaurant. We featured three of the candidates for the 58th Assembly District – Rick Gundrum, Tiffany Koehler and Steve Stanek. We also heard from the conservative candidate running for State Supreme Court – Judge Michael Screnock. U.S. Senate candidate – Leah Vukmir joined us, as well as Senator Duey Stroebel and Rep. Jesse Kremer. We continue to donate to Fisher House as they always have ongoing needs. This year we collected a good amount of cash as well as items to send nine Christmas gift boxes to seven soldiers (plus military dogs) serving overseas. For a second year we participated in the Zablocki VA Medical Center – "Christmas With The Vets". We collected \$365 in cash plus \$135 in gift cards and about three bins of items on their wish list. All of these projects are a team effort of our executive board and our members and we thank everyone who donated. This is my last newsletter article as President and I would like to thank everyone for an extremely successful year. Maryann Rathke will be our new President as of January 1, 2018. I wish everyone a very happy and successful New Year.

*Kathy Kiernan, President
Washington County Republican Women*

2018 MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals for 2018 have been sent out to all current members. While we have already received renewals from many of you, there are still quite a few members from 2017 who have not renewed for 2018. You may also renew online on our website, www.washingtoncountygop.org. Membership dues will remain at \$15.00/person and \$25.00/family for 2018. If you are so inclined, you may renew at the Lincoln, Reagan or Washington levels, which gives you the opportunity to help us financially and gives you free tickets to our events and VIP seating in return. Please consider a higher membership level if you can, as it is very difficult to keep to pay all our bills on \$15.00 dues. Our yearly budget is \$22,000.00 - \$25,000.00, and 2018 is a big campaign year. Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to the WCRP!

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.



Chairman Jim speaks with Vice President Mike Pence



Rep. Jesse Kremer decorates the Kewaskum elementary school Christmas tree



Live fundraiser auction with Reps. Dan Knodl and Janel Brandtjen



Rick Gundrum speaks at the WCRW breakfast



WCRP's Kathy and Crystal with new Czech Ambassador Steve King

58th Assembly Election

As is also stated in the campaign report, the special primary election for the vacant 58th district assembly seat on Dec. 19 was won by Rick Gundrum. The results were: Rick Gundrum 38.92%, Tiffany Koehler 30.59%, Steve Stanek 29.28% and Spencer Zimmerman 1.15%. The top three finishers are all WCRP members, and all three ran great campaigns. The WCRP sincerely thanks our members who took the time out of their lives, and incurred the expenses of running for the seat. Because there is a Democrat in the race, there will be a general election on Jan. 16. While this is considered a safe Republican seat, it is imperative that all of us in the 58th get out and vote for Rick Gundrum. This will be a low turnout election, so please spread the word as we would like to have a large margin of victory for Rick.

DELEGATES

What is a Delegate?
• A Delegate is a person who is generally empowered to represent a larger group. In the case of the WCRP, Delegates and Alternates represent the 450+ members of the WCRP.
• Delegates are highly active, dues paying members of the WRCR. They are nominated and approved by the WCRP Executive Committee and approved via vote by members present during the annual WCRP caucus.
What does a Delegate do?
• All WCRP members have voting rights at the annual Lincoln Day Caucus, where WCRP members vote to approve appointed Delegates/Alternates, and grassroots platform resolutions.
• Accepted resolutions are then sent to the 5th Congressional District Caucus, and ultimately the state Republican convention.
• Only WCRP Delegates can attend and vote at the 5th District Caucus and State GOP Convention. These votes not only have an impact on the state Republican Party platform, they also send Washington County's grassroots message to the 5th Congressional District, state, and national committee.
• In the years in which there is a statewide election, there shall be an endorsement vote at the state Convention for each of the five state constitutional offices and the United States Senate.
• Delegates are strongly encouraged to attend at least two of these three annual functions: Lincoln Day Brunch/Caucus, 5th Congressional District Caucus and the State GOP Convention.

TAX CUT BILL HIGHLIGHTS

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) overhauls America's tax code to deliver historic tax relief for workers, families and job creators, and revitalize our nation's economy. By lowering taxes across the board, eliminating costly special-interest tax breaks, and modernizing our international tax system, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will help create more jobs, increase paychecks, and make the tax code simpler and fairer for Americans of all walks of life. With this bill, the typical family of four earning the median family income of \$73,000 will receive a tax cut of \$2,059.
For individuals and families, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also:
• Lowers individual taxes and sets the rates at 0%, 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35%, and 37% so people can keep more of their hard-earned money.
• Significantly increases the standard deduction to protect roughly double the amount of what you earn each year from taxes – from \$6,500 and \$13,000 under current law to \$12,000 and \$24,000 for individuals and married couples, respectively.
• Continues to allow people to write off the cost of state and local taxes – up to \$10,000.
• Takes action to support more American families by:
• Expanding the Child Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000
• Preserving the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help families care for their children and older dependents such as a disabled grandparent who may need additional support.
• Preserving the Adoption Tax Credit so parents can continue to receive additional tax relief as they open their hearts and homes to an adopted child.
• Preserves the mortgage interest deduction – providing tax relief to current and aspiring homeowners.
• For homeowners with new mortgages on a first or second home, the home mortgage interest deduction will be available up to \$750,000.
• Provides relief for Americans with expensive medical bills by expanding the medical expense deduction for 2017 and 2018 for medical expenses exceeding 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income, and rising to 10 percent beginning in 2019.
• Continues and expands the deduction for charitable contributions so people can continue to donate to their local church, charity, or community organization.
• Eliminates Obamacare's individual mandate penalty tax – providing families with much-needed relief and flexibility to buy the health care that's right for them if they choose.
• Maintains the Earned Income Tax Credit to provide important tax relief for low-income Americans working to build better lives for themselves.
• Improves savings vehicles for education by allowing families to use 529 accounts to save for elementary, secondary and higher education.
• Provides support for graduate students by continuing to exempt the value of reduced tuition from taxes.

2018 Lincoln Day Brunch

The 2018 Lincoln Day Brunch and Caucus is fast approaching, Sunday, January 28. Invitations will be out in a couple days. We hope to have a large gathering at the Columbian Banquet Hall to welcome Congressman Sensenbrenner, Attorney General Brad Schimel, Judge Michael Screnock and possibly Governor Scott Walker (we have not received a confirmation from him yet). In addition, US Senate candidates Leah Vukmir and Kevin Nicholson will be joining us, as well as most of our local elected officials. This will provide an opportunity to personally speak with elected officials and hear them speak to the delegation. There will be a small amount of business to conduct during the caucus portion of the event as well. This event is one of our largest events of the year, so we hope to see you there. Catering by Bryan will provide the brunch buffet.

State Senate Report



I thank Senator Fitzgerald for the opportunity to serve on JFC to continue the reforms conservatives have been enacting. I look forward to using my private sector experience on the Joint Finance Committee. After receiving my master's degree in Real Estate Appraisal and Investment Analysis, I began my career in real estate. During thirty years as a small business owner, I have built roads to municipal specifications, developed neighborhoods and constructed varied housing options. Prior to my time in the legislature, my background includes serving on the Cedarburg School Board, multiple bank boards, Town of Cedarburg Planning Commission and local charity boards. This breadth of experience will allow me to take a holistic look at the entire budget. As a member of the Joint Finance Committee, I will dig deeply into the budget looking for bold reforms that reduce government's size and spend our scarce taxpayer resources more effectively. I was sent to Madison to ensure all Wisconsinites may achieve economic prosperity and a higher quality of life. JFC will have our challenges in the coming budget. I look forward to tackling the tough issues with my colleagues on the committee utilizing a citizen legislator approach.

Sen. Duey Stroebel
20th Senate District

State Assembly Report



I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for letting me be your voice in the Legislature. It is an honor to work for you here at the Capitol. This past year we continued moving the state forward. The economy is growing and unemployment is low. We have a budget surplus and lowered your tax burden. The tuition freeze was extended another two years to help keep college affordable. We also passed protections for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. As we gather with friends and family this Holiday Season, we have much to be grateful for here in Wisconsin. Let us also remember those in the military who will spend Christmas away from their families. Thank you for your service protecting our freedoms. From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Rep. Dan Knodl
24th Assembly District

Campaign Report



2018 will be a big campaign year. We'll be electing a Supreme Court Justice in the spring election plus all our other local non-partisan officials. At this moment, a conservative candidate – Judge Michael Screnock – has announced his candidacy for the Supreme Court. He is currently a Circuit Court Judge in Sauk County. He was appointed by Governor Walker to this position. We look forward to meeting him at our events. We'll also be electing a U.S. Senator to replace Tammy Baldwin. Kevin Nicholson, a businessman and former marine, has announced his candidacy. Senator Leah Vukmir is very close to announcing her intentions. We are also looking forward to re-electing our Governor, Scott Walker; our Lt. Governor, Rebecca Kleefisch; and our Attorney General, Brad Schimel. Yes – 2018 will be a very busy year!
Kathy Kiernan
Campaign Chairman