



GOP

County Courier

A Newsletter for the Partners in Grassroots Government

June, 2009

NCRCO 2009-2010 Slate of Officers

The following is the proposed list of officers put forth, according to NCRCO bylaws, by the Nominating Committee Chairman Carol Holden as Immediate Past President, on behalf of members Dennis Hollingsworth, Ray Valdes, Scott Wagner and Nancy Weeks.



President: Michael Long
Klamath County Treasurer,
Klamath Falls, OR



Vice President: Don Wallace
Tuscaloosa County Commissioner
Tuscaloosa, Alabama



Secretary: Benjamin Owens
District 10 Board Member
McLean County, IL



Treasurer: Cynthia Johnson
Pondera County Commissioner
Conrad, MT



**Immediate Past President:
Dennis Hollingsworth**
Tax Collector, St. Johns
County, Florida



President's Report June 2009

With less than one month remaining in my presidency, I have an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings and opportunities God has given me through the National Conference of Republican County Officials.

There have been so many highlights, not the least of which has been working with a truly professional group of conservative leaders determined to give their utmost to ensure the success of the Republican Party. Our monthly conference calls have been inspiring, engaging and insightful, and it has been an honor and privilege to have such a team assembled. I extend my sincere thanks to the Executive Committee and Board of Regional Directors for their time and effort.

Perhaps the most enduring personal highlight was the opportunity to ring in the holidays with President George W. and First Lady Laura Bush. It was a special moment to encounter them as truly unaffected, warm Americans who can dispel nervousness and aloofness with an easy smile and Texas hospitality. I will treasure the memories of Christmastime in Washington D.C. with my family, including the personal tour of the White House and Capitol.

I am most proud of the relationship developing between the

2009-2010 Regional Directors

Region 1: Pamela Coughlin
Register of Deeds Hillsborough
County, NH



Region 2: James V. Scahill
Armstrong County Commissioner
Armstrong County, PA



Region 3: Richard C. "Dick" Cecil
Executive Director, Delaware
Assn. of Counties
Sussex County, DE



Region 4: Bob Janes
Lee County Commissioner
Lee County, FL



Region 5: Scott Kimmich
Deputy Judge Executive
Kenton County, KY



Region 6: Amanda Roggenbuck
Tuscola County Commissioner
Tuscola County, MI



Region 7: Charlotte Sandvik
Cass County Treasurer
Cass County, ND



Region 8: Stephen H. Holt
Jasper County Collector of
Revenue
Carthage, MO



Region 9: Suzanne Henderson
Tarrant County Clerk
Tarrant County, TX

Republican National Committee and NCRCO. As you may recall, we had a rocky patch last fall when the RNC called into question our logo that incorporated the RNC seal. When RNC Chairman Michael Steele was named, our NACo liaison Ryan Yates diligently worked to secure a conference call with him. Mr. Steele was cordial on the call and receptive to me offering NCRCO's full support to convey the party message to our grassroots constituents, and likewise share information gained at the local level with party headquarters. The groundwork has been laid for the next NCRCO president to cement this relationship and gain success in the 2010 congressional and local elections.

As this was a presidential election year, I also had the opportunity to represent NCRCO at the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. Although I was unable to address the convention as planned, it was an incredible experience and I enjoyed serving as your ambassador to the various elected officials, delegates and GOP members.

Who would have thought, twelve months ago, that we would be facing crises of such magnitude looming over our nation? Who would have thought that our President would refer to America as "no longer a Christian nation," but as "one of the largest Muslim countries of the world," and bow to the Saudi king? Our economic, personal and religious freedoms are threatened as has never before been seen in the history of our nation, and it is quite possible the United States of America could be forever changed for the worse within one brief four-year term. Yet I take heart in the groundswell of conservative support demonstrated in tea parties being held across our nation, and believe that further and permanent degradation of our liberties can be averted in the 2010 elections. The need has never been greater for a committed NCRCO membership supporting strong NCRCO leadership in a concerted effort to put forth a conservative agenda and truly conservative candidate for office. I believe in our United States Constitution, and ask that you take a moment, on the eve of our celebration of Independence from tyranny, to recommit to these beliefs. Keep them visible throughout your term of office, and refer to them often. It is only through a return to a firm belief in our God-given nation that the United States of America will survive, thrive and remain a beacon of freedom to the rest of the world.

May God bless you and your family, and God bless America!

Respectfully yours,

Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC
President, NCRCO



Region 10: Jack Hilbert
Douglas County Commissioner
Douglas County, CO



Region 11: David Ferdinand
Canyon County Commissioner
Canyon County, ID



Region 12: Michael Jeanes
Superior Court Clerk
Maricopa County, AZ

The Preamble to the United States Constitution

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."



REPORTS FROM OUR OFFICERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS

The **Immediate Past President's report** appears above in the form of the slate of officers for 2009-2010.

TREASURER BENJAMIN OWENS, ILLINOIS, REPORTS:

Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2009	\$5,240.76	
2009 Paid Dues-Membership (Revenue)	+\$1,240.00	
		<i>Balance as of April 30, 2009</i>
		\$6,480.76
Fountain Programming (Expenses) (February Newsletter 2009)	-\$200.00	
		<i>Balance as of May 31, 2009</i>
		\$6,280.76
2009 Paid Dues-Membership (Revenue)	+\$100.00	
NACo- Legislative Meeting-Meeting and Reception (Expense)	-\$3,696.25	
		<i>Balance as of June 12, 2009</i>
		\$2,684.51

Current Membership (2009): 67 Members

Secretary Cyndi Johnson, Montana, reports:

Republicans in Montana held their annual Convention at the State Capital, June 11 - 13 and elected new leadership. Will Deschamps of Missoula and Liane Johnson of Cut Bank were elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the party and Cynthia Johnson was re-elected State GOP Secretary. Enthusiasm is strong as we look forward to the next election cycle. Republicans are very aware of the effort, at the Democrat national level, to pump huge amounts of money into state level elections in order to create stronger support for the current administration. Montana Republicans fully intend to squash that goal.

Region 3 – Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia DAC Executive Director Dick Cecil reports:

I am happy to report that in Sussex County, Delaware where I live, the Republicans control the County Council 4 to 1. It would be helpful if the NCRCO Secretary could supply me a list of paid NCRCO members in Region 3 so I could keep in

touch with them. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville!

**Region 4 – Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
Issues Committee Chairman and Seminole County Tax Collector Ray Valdes reports:**

ARTICLE XII
ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

An annual award may be presented at each Annual NCRCO Meeting to an individual(s) deemed “Republican County Official of the Year”.

The President shall appoint a panel of five (5) independent judges each year, naming the Chair, and including at least two (2) past recipients of the award that are still active NCRCO members, to review the applications and select the winner(s). No current Officer or Regional Director shall serve on the panel of judges.

Qualifications to receive the award at an Annual NCRCO Meeting must include:

- (a) A current and prior year paid dues member in good standing of NCRCO.
- (b) Attended at least one prior year NCRCO meeting or reception.
- (c) Submission of a “Republican County Official of the Year” award application at least 90 days prior to the Annual Award Meeting, directed to the Chair of the Annual Achievement Award Committee. This includes a maximum 1,000 word explanation of why the individual should be considered, followed by a resume or political biography of not more than 5 pages.
- (d) Not more than four (4) letters of support endorsement, in which must be included:
 - (1) One NCRCO Officer or Regional Director
 - (2) One elected Republican County or State Official from the applicant’s home state.
- (e) No self submittal will be considered. The award application must be submitted on behalf of the applicant by a qualified Republican, and should include the recognized achievements of the NCRCO member applicant. The applicant may provide any information or documentation requested by the submitter to be included with the application to meet the other qualification requirements.

**Region 5 – Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee
Tuscaloosa County Commissioner Don Wallace reports:**



The Annual Convention is just a few days away in Nashville, Tennessee, in the heart of Region 5. I want to take this opportunity to tell you about another exciting event to be held in Nashville on **Saturday evening, July 25. The Tennessee Republican Party will be having their Statesmen's Dinner at the Nashville Convention Center.** You can get more information on the event by contacting 2009Statesmens@tngop.org.

My very own **Senator Jeff Sessions** will be the keynote speaker. Senator Sessions will be leading the GOP's questioning of President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Sonia Sotomayor. Sessions is ranked as one of the most conservative Senators for his conservative stands on illegal immigration, fiscal policy and abortion. He received more votes for re-election than any Republican in Alabama's history last year.

Don't forget, we have **Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn** scheduled to be our special guest at the Sunday evening NCRCO reception. She was recently on Fox News as part of Hannity's Great American Panel. She should be exciting and I am looking forward to meeting and hearing her, as I am sure all of you are. Make sure you register and update your membership if you did not do so at Legislative Conference. That will cover the cost of the reception for you as well.

Lastly, I am excited about the election prospects in Region 5. Mississippi elected a new Republican U.S. Senator and continues to move forward. Tennessee is in the midst of an exciting summer as you can tell, Kentucky is looking ahead to the re-election of a Republican U.S. Senator, and Alabama has an exciting Governor's race. Alabama also elected a State Senator to replace a recently elected "Blue Dog" Democrat Congressman



that was elected in North Alabama. The Republican took away the Democrat's State Senate seat by a 15% margin in the special election. As for these Blue Dogs, the Democrats are trying very hard in the South to elect more "conservative Democrats" to Congress. Just remember to put those so-called Blue Dogs on the spot and ask them if they voted for Nancy Pelosi or Harry Reid to be in charge of Congress! That's being a liberal!

Region 8: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Jasper County Tax Collector Stephen H. Holt, Carthage, Missouri, reports:

With the announcement of the retirement of US Senator Christopher (Kit) Bond, MO, 7th District Congressman, (MINE) has announced his intention to seek the US Senate seat. Robin Carnahan (D) the current Secretary of State and daughter or former Governor Mel Carnahan (died in office in plane crash) is the only Democrat seeking the open seat. With that announcement by Congressman Roy Blunt (former Majority Leader and Whip and former Minority Leader and Whip) two Missouri State Senators have announced their intention to seek the open 7th District seat vacated by Blunt. Sen. Jack Goodman and Sen. Gary Nodler (the Appropriations chairman) have both announced their candidacy, along with the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney and another Springfield resident. Things will soon be heating up and battle lines drawn in what promises to be a very hard-fought primary election set for August of 2010.

Region 12 – Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Clerk of the Superior Court Michael Jeanes, Maricopa County, AZ, reports:

On April 15, 2009, a "Tea Party" was held at the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix. The party went on for several hours and drew a (police estimated) crowd of over 5000! While organizers anticipated that most of the crowd would be Republicans, they were pleasantly surprised to find a significant number of Democrats and independents attended. Organizers deemed the party a huge success.

Many Republicans all across Region 12 are expressing their opposition to tax increases as a means to address state and local budget issues. In Arizona, the Republican controlled legislature is trying to find ways to eliminate a \$3.2 billion deficit in a \$9 billion budget. While some across the west are still considering raising taxes, the Tea Parties and the recent election in California, which overwhelmingly rejected tax increase proposals, has had an impact on deliberations.



The following information was reprinted from the www.gop.com website, which is presently under construction.

On Friday of last week, we chose a vendor to rebuild our website and digital presence; the two are not the same and the distinction matters---a lot. It matters especially so for us.

The website you see today is difficult to update, hard to use, and locked in a Web 1.0 environment. It is also stale. It is in need of a massive spring clean. To be fair, my predecessor and good friend, Cyrus Krohn, and his team were on the way to changing all of this. Then, we elected a new Chairman, re-grouped, re-staffed and then, finally, we locked & loaded.

The project is underway.

You will soon witness some preliminary changes and, less soon—though, faster than I have ever seen done—you will see the new GOP.com in its entirety. This is where you come in.

Pew recently released a study about politics and technology. I quote (the emphasis is mine): “Despite the Dem’s recent success in using the internet, Republicans as a whole (68%) are actually more likely to be online political users than Dem’s (53%). 84% of Republicans go online and of that group 79% are online political users. Only 40% of Republicans engage in online activism. (Online activism is defined by three components; 1) going online for political news and information 2) communicating with others about politics online and 3) using social media tools (FBOOK, Twitter, Email) to interact with other voters/campaigns.)”

As you can see, this is where you come in---we hope.

For many of you, Facebook and Twitter are like Tide and Big Macs, BrightKite is old-hat and you have already beta-tested Vine and Footprint. Cool. Will you help the rest of us?

For some of you, this will be a new and exciting way to exercise your political muscles. Perhaps our friends in the know will lend us a hand.

I mentioned the important distinction between a website and a digital-presence. You are our digital presence and it is our job to make your insurmountably important role in our Party fun, easy, compelling, two-way and meaningful. The website can be a meeting place, an information gathering place, the action center where you can prepare yourself to help people discover that hope & change really means poverty & pain. Or, it can be a website. We are determined to provide the tools necessary to make it the former. If you have thoughts on what that should include, please tell [us](#).

Thank you for being our digital presence ... especially through the past few months.

Pictured from left: RNC Chairman Michael Steele and NCRCO liaison Ryan Yates at the Republic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C.





2009 Annual Conference
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
July 24-28, 2009
Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee

Please click on the following link to register:

www.naco.org

The following **NCRCO activities** will take place during the conference on Sunday, July 26, at the Gaylord Convention Center:

- 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Executive Meeting Room: Jackson C
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Membership Meeting Room: Canal E
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Reception and Installation of Officers Room: Bayou E

Vice President Michael Long and NACo Liaison Ryan Yates are coordinating the activities for the conference. If you are interested in assisting with the preparations, please contact Michael Long at mlong@co.klamath.or.us.





I am an American eagle, apex steward of the American forest. I survive each day without relying on others, and teach my offspring the same principles of hard work and self-sufficiency that are the very foundation of my own abundant prosperity. When my time is up, I will not leave behind massive obligations to be paid for by future generations. Yes, I am an American eagle, proud symbol of the greatest nation in history and an exemplary role model for all of God's creatures, including man.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING ACTIVE IN NCRCO?????
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS**

Visit Our Website for more information!!!

www.ncrco.org



Looking for a TEA Party?
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Ten buttons for \$10.00. Ten stickers for \$15.00. TEA-Shirts are as low as \$10.00 each (in packs of 10).

FREE SHIPPING on ALL Buttons, Stickers and TEA-Shirts!

Immediate Past President Carol Holden submitted the following article from the Tea Party Patriots

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SALES TAX

Folks, things are just going from bad to real bad, to the depths of really, really bad. And it looks like all of these "proposals" are trying to be kept under the radar.

Strap on your boots, gang!

As lawmakers toy with the idea of an across-the-board sales tax on just about everything, tax reform advocates are starting to drum up opposition with the same fervor they employed during last month's anti-tax tea parties.

The idea of a national sales tax was once unlikely. But now that the federal government is doling out billions in stimulus spending and bailouts, and looking for billions more for health care reform, the prospect could be gaining some traction.

The frenzy over the idea kicked up after a Washington Post article Wednesday reported that Congress started paying closer attention to this largely academic proposal and that the Obama Administration, though shushing speculation, is soliciting advice from supporters of the idea.

"It should certainly raise alarm bells that they think they can inject it into the debate," said Phil Kerpen, director at Americans for Prosperity.

The value-added tax, or VAT, as it is called, amounts to a tax-on-everything – or TOE, for the acronym-inclined. It's a tax on goods that's applied in pieces throughout the chain of production and distribution and results in an increase in the cost of virtually everything you buy.

Aside from raising revenue for the government, the move could have a number of things going for it, say proponents – it's tough to evade, it's simple by comparison to the income tax and it encourages saving.

Some conservatives have called for something similar – the so-called Fair Tax – that would replace the federal income tax system with a national retail sales tax.

But critics of the VAT say it would almost certainly not be implemented as a replacement for the income tax system – rather, it would be just another tax, on top of the income tax, the state sales tax and everything else.

"This isn't a tax reform proposal that the White House is talking about. This is a new source of income for the government," said Max Pappas, public policy vice president at Freedom Works. "The government needs big taxes and we've got big government, so now they're trying to decide how to pay for it."

It's unclear how far along the idea is on Capitol Hill.

But Sen. Kent Conrad, D-ND, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, was open to that idea, and the article noted that one of Budget Director Peter Orszag's health care advisors is a VAT advocate and Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve chairman who's now an Obama economic advisor, is at least willing to hear arguments.

Leonard Burman, co-director of the Tax Policy Center, wrote in a Virginia Tax Review article last month that the tax-on-everything could finance health care reform, and could reach a rate of 25 percent.

One of the chief criticisms of the consumption tax is that it is regressive – it would hurt the poor the most. Because lower-income earners use a greater percentage of their income for consumption, the tax could end up being a bigger burden on the poor.

But Burman argued in a separate article for the review that using the revenue from the tax for health care would offset this effect, since "the voucher would be worth more than the VAT tax paid by most households."

If that's the best-case scenario, critics see a worst-case scenario that is devastating. Though the tax is used in Europe, opponents cite Europe's rapid growth in government over the past several decades as one of its potent negative side effects.

Pappas said the system would be exploited to grow government over the decades, since the tax is relatively easy to obscure.

"This is a big deal," he said. "This fundamentally changes the size of government indefinitely, permanently, and you can see that by the expansion in Europe over the past 40 years."

Plus it could have the unfortunate effect of discouraging spending in a time of recession – effectively serving as an anti-stimulus.

Critics saw Wednesday's article as a trial balloon, which may or may not find its way into real-world negotiations over revenue raising.

It's not so outrageous considering proposals that are already being discussed. A memo circulated at a recent Senate Finance Committee meeting floated the possibility of a federal excise tax on sugary drinks – not just sodas, but fruit and vegetable drinks, energy drinks, iced teas, iced coffees and flavored milk drinks.

An across-the-board consumption tax could make that look pleasant by comparison, since it's more than a sin tax – it's a tax on virtuous and moral-neutral items as well. Small-government advocates, though, have pledged to fight both ideas.

"A VAT is among the most regressive tax schemes that can be imposed, and is a direct violation of Obama's no-tax-hike promise," Ryan Ellis, tax policy director at Americans for Tax Reform, wrote Wednesday on his group's website. "VATs are a gateway drug to more government spending."



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

MEMBERSHIP REPLY



YES, I want to be an active participant in the National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) and help support the programs that will benefit all local elected and appointed Republicans. Enclosed is my membership fee of \$20.

Please complete the following information.
Send your reply along with your \$20 check, payable to:

The National Conference of Republican County Officials

Mail to

Benjamin Owens
NCRCO Treasurer
McLean County Board Member, District 10
115 E. Washington Street,
P.O. Box 2400
Bloomington, IL 61702-2400

Renewal

New Member

Name _____	Title _____
Address _____	County _____
City, State, Zip _____	Office # _____
Fax# _____	Home/Cell# _____
Email Address _____	

**Please renew your \$20.00 membership today or become a new member.
Dues are paid on a calendar year basis.**

[ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO ENLIST NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR ORGANIZATION](#)

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