



ELEPHANT TALES

The Official Publication of the Jackson County Republican Committee

www.jacksonrepublicans.com

Winter 2012

J.C. Watts to be keynote speaker at Jackson GOP's 117th Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

(Jackson) – The Jackson County Republican Party announces that former Congressman J.C. Watts will be the keynote speaker at the 117th Annual Jackson County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner.

The event will be February 20, 2012, at the Jackson Community College Space Center (2111 Emmons Rd.) with registration beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.

“J.C. Watts is a conservative trailblazer with the experience and knowledge to be a great speaker on many important topics including valuable insights into the 2012 elections,” said Hank Choate, Chairman of the Jackson County Republican Party. “I think that Jackson Republicans will have an enjoyable time listening to Congressman Watts.”

The annual Lincoln Day Dinner is a way for Jackson County Republicans to celebrate the past, present and future of the party, historical figures and build excitement for the upcoming 2012 presidential election.

The event will feature a live auction, legislative updates and presentation of awards given to the Republican of the Year, Volunteer and Couple of the year. The Austin Blair Award will be awarded for the first time to honor outstanding service by elected officials.

The Jackson GOP is also sponsoring an essay contest and winners from the High School and College divisions will be reading their essays at the event and receive a \$250 cash prize.

“We continue to build on last year’s successful essay contest and seek submissions from even more high school and college students,” said Marcy Jankovich, the essay contest coordinator. “This is a great way for students to play an active part in the event and to apply the knowledge they have received from their educators.”

Tickets for the Lincoln Day Dinner are \$75 per person and are available for purchase on the Jackson County Republican website at www.jacksonrepublicans.com starting



Ann Romney to speak at the 2012 Lincoln Day Dinner

The JCRC is delighted to announce that the better part of the Mitt Romney for President Campaign will also speak at the Lincoln Day Dinner, Ann Romney! Ann is far more than just Mitt’s wife. She is equally passionate about this election cycle and will bring amazing energy to the event. Everyone who attends will be blessed!

This edition of Elephant Tales is dedicated to the memory of Lola Peterson. Please read her Memoriam on page 4.

Chairman's Minute

Four years ago, candidate Barack Obama promised to bring people together, change Washington's broken system, do away with gridlock, repair our nation, and put Americans back to work. Candidate Obama challenged us to reach for our dreams. President Obama now asks us to settle for less while telling us "It could be worse."

Today we have a president who speaks of class warfare; an administration and Democrat-controlled Senate which procrastinates fulfilling their responsibilities and creates crises by pushing decisions to the final hour rather than coming together with solutions. We have a president that invited Congressman Paul Ryan to attend a press conference, seating him in the front row, only to belittle the Congressman's plan to strengthen Social Security and Medicare. We have a president who apologized to other countries for America rather than articulating America's contribution to freedom throughout the world. We have a president whose regulatory policies constrict and decrease job opportunities for American workers.

The narrative of President Obama and the Democrat National Committee to the American people will be "bait and switch tactics" on issues this country faces. The economy and the national debt will be the key factors in the 2012 election. Many American people are notoriously ill informed about economics. "You do not lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down; you do not help the poor by destroying the rich, and you do not strengthen the weak by weakening the strong."

The 2012 election will require Republicans to educate and bring awareness to the electorate. The policies of the Democrat Party that seem to be well intended, in reality, have negative consequences. Taxes that are scheduled to be implemented in 2013 and new burdensome regulations are causing the absence of job creation in the United States. Worse yet, this situation will force capital overseas hurting our economic growth.

The bigger government becomes the smaller we become in our society. The more dependent we are on government for our existence, the more enslaved we are to it.

I ask you to get engaged, become involved. We can make a difference, and we have to.

-Hank Choate, Jackson County Republican Chair



Editor's Corner

You are invited to provide feedback on *Elephant Tales* newsletter by submitting questions and comments to the Editor. Please contact ckeller@jacksonrepublicans.com. Thank you for your participation!

A special note of appreciation to all who have contributed content for this edition

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*You are invited to join the
Jackson County Republican Party
as we welcome*

Former Congressman
J.C. Watts

as our keynote speaker at the
117th Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

Monday, February 20, 2012
5:00 – Registration | 6:00 – Dinner

JCC Space Center
2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson, MI 49203

Tickets: \$75 per person
Corporate Tables: \$1000

For more information, contact:
Hank Choate (517-812-1663) or Dr. Jane Grover (517-740-3637)

To purchase tickets, buy a program ad or for more information, visit:
www.jacksonrepublicans.com

Paid for by the Jackson County Republican Party, with Regulated Funds. - 2019 Fourth St. - Jackson, MI 49203

Following the Leaders!

Did you know you can follow the JCRC and your elected officials on **Facebook** and sign-up for newsletters on their websites? Visit their websites for many current messages and upcoming events. Here are some links:

Rep. Earl Poleski : (517) 373-1795

Email: EarlPoleski@house.mi.gov

Website: www.RepPoleski.com

Rep. Mike Shirkey: (517) 373-1775

Email: MikeShirkey@house.mi.gov

Web: www.representativemikeshirkey.com

Sen. Mike Nofs: 517-373-2426

Email: senmnofs@senate.michigan.gov

Website: www.senatormikenofs.com

Sen. Randy Richardville: (517) 373-3543

Email: senrichardville@senate.michigan.gov

Website: www.senatorrandyrichardville.com

Congressman Tim Walberg: (202) 225-6276

Email: form on website

Website: www.walberg.house.gov

JCRC: (517) 783-2697

Website: <http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com/>

MIGOP: <http://www.migop.org/>

**Michigan
Presidential
Primary**

**February 28,
2012**

VOTE!

IN MEMORIAM of LOLA PETERSON 1930 - 2011

Lola Peterson's legacy will be remembered, particularly by the Republican Party, long after she passed away on November 20, 2011. She should be remembered every four years each time the 1988 Right to Life language, which she promoted, continues to be repeated in the National Platform of the Republican Party. She will be remembered whenever anyone visits the "Under the Oaks" park which she inspired and designed. She will be remembered for her authorship of the 2011 mini reenactment of the founding of the Republican Party at the location of the park. She will be remembered when the time capsule buried there is recovered and opened. And she will be remembered for the Lifetime Achievement Award created by the Jackson County Republican Party specifically in her honor.



There is clearly no way that Lola's activity for and continuing dedication to her family, her community, her religious faith and Lumen Christi High School can be summarized in a newsletter. It is enough to say that she did everything she could for what she believed in, and those of us who knew her will never forget the way she turned her dedication into action.

Written by: Bruce Barton



2011 Reagan BBQ

The annual Reagan BBQ was held October 9, 2011, at Weir Farms. The day turned out to be perfect: warm and sunny. The Weir family was again gracious in providing our location and drinks and the Hanover Lions Club provided the fare, chicken, pork chops and an additional entrée of steak, thanks to Jon Williams.

Our goals for the event were threefold.

- To increase attendance to at least 300 people, 50 of whom are new attendees.
- To increase online sales.
- To increase party membership.
- To make voter registration available.



We sold 299 tickets, fed 315 people (84 of whom were new attendees) and had a number of people in attendance who did not participate in the meal. We did increase online sales some, and we had party membership and voter registration forms available. Six of the seven prospective Senatorial candidates attended and were given the opportunity to speak. Alibi, the band, with guest artist, William Reynolds, provided the entertainment.

Attendees who took part in a survey given as they entered told us that most were personally invited to attend the event. In looking forward to Reagan BBQ 2012, we ask that everyone be thinking of friends, neighbors and acquaintances that can be invited to attend this year. We each make a difference. This is true for the 2012 Lincoln Day Dinner as well.

Behind the Bench.....with Judge Joe Filip

The District Court still anxiously awaits the Supreme Court decision on the Judge Justin Judicial Tenure Commission action. The Court heard attorney arguments the first week of last October. Hopefully, the Court will issue its decision soon, at least by the end of January. Perhaps, we have that decision at the time of this publication.

Judge Rich LaFlamme, appointed by Governor Snyder, has "settled" into his new position. The Judge hears a docket of civil, family, and criminal matters.

The Supreme Court Administration Office has directed all courts to seek areas of consolidation, perhaps to improve efficiency and save money. In Jackson, that process awaits the Justin decision. We will then know how the Jackson courts can proceed with consolidation, if any.

Again, keep in mind: Justices Markman and Zahra stand for election in November presumably the GOP will nominate both at its summer convention. Justice Markman will seek another full 8-year term; Justice Zahra will seek election to the remainder (6 years) of retired Justice Corrigan's seat [Justice Corrigan now serves as the Director of the State DHS]. Justices Markman and Zahra are well-established "rule-of-law" Justices and well-deserve re-election.

And...Justice Kelly must leave the Supreme Court at the end of 2012; age limitation. So...the political parties will nominate their candidates to fill that position with the November election. The current "makeup" of the Supreme Court is 4GOP-3Dem. Justice Kelly is a Dem. So the November election for this position can affect the "makeup: 5GOP-2Dem or remain 4GOP-3Dem.

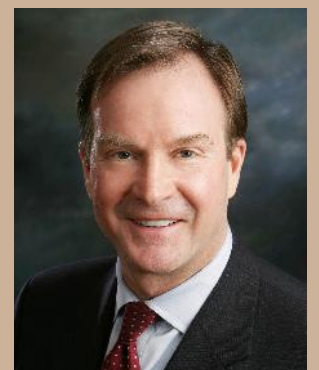
On January 27th the Michigan Supreme Court issued an order that Judge Justin was removed from the bench. This obviously creates a vacancy in the District Court bench. The Governor will appoint the replacement. That process could take a couple of months.



On Duty with Attorney General Bill Schuette

The job of Attorney General is straightforward: defend the law and uphold the Constitution. That is exactly what I have done these last twelve months. Let me highlight three key areas:

1. I am continuing the fight against Obamacare. One of Michigan's key arguments is the imposition of an individual mandate – forcing everyone to purchase a private product, in this case, health insurance. This is an unprecedented imposition on individuals by the federal government, in violation of its limited powers. I will fight this tooth and nail.
2. Public Corruption continues to be one of my key issues. Upon taking office, I launched a Public Integrity Unit. Already this year, my office has filed more than 100 charges and secured six convictions. Taxpayers in Michigan work far too hard for their money to see it squandered by those who have been elected to serve.
3. Michigan is the Great Lakes state. The five Great Lakes comprise more than 90 percent of the freshwater in America. Aquatic invasive species pose a clear and present danger to both our environment and our economy. Most troublesome is the threat of Asian Carp escaping from the Mississippi River and entering the Great Lakes. I am fighting a two-track strategy: suing the federal government to create a barrier to keep Asian Carp out of the Lakes, and creating a national coalition of Attorneys General to keep the pressure on and the carp out.



For more information, please visit our website at: www.michigan.gov/ag.

Checking in with Sheriff Steve Rand

The [Jackson County Office of the Sheriff](#) is pleased to announce the promotion of **Carl Carmoney** to the rank of Captain. Carl is replacing Dave Luce who recently retired to take over as Springport's Chief of Police. Carl's new duties include overseeing the operation of our two jail facilities with an average daily population of 400 inmates. With this promotion also came a reduction in staffing. In continued cooperation with the County Administrator and Board of Commissioners this office reduced the number of Emergency Management staff by one full time employee. This will equate to significant savings to both city and county governments, as this is a joint city-county cooperative.

The Sheriff's Office has been part of several major investigations the past few months. The most notable is the double homicide that occurred in Leoni Township where the victims were killed and taken to a remote Grass Lake wildlife sanctuary and the vehicle burned. Thanks to the work of the Major Crimes Task Force the perpetrators of these crimes were arrested within 72 hours of the crimes commission. This effort highlights what can be accomplished when agencies work together.



Along these same lines, this office is working with the Michigan State Police, Blackman Township Public Safety and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney to establish a similar concept as the Major Crimes Task Force applied to accident reconstruction. This cooperative would bring swift resolution to serious, complex traffic crashes and solidify prosecution in these cases.

This winter will see many of the projects initiated this past year come to fruition. The Sheriff's Office completed the construction of the public safety radio tower at Clarklake Rd. This will enhance communications for public safety entities in the southeast corner of Jackson County. This office continues to work with the Jackson City Police to migrate their radio system to the county radio system in an effort to function as a single, countywide, interoperable system.



Chairman Hank Choate and Michelle Brown enjoying the Reagan Ranch BBQ in October...

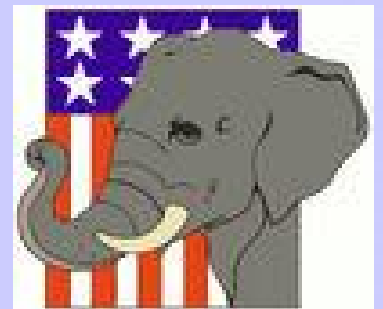
The JCRC Family Outreach Campaign's patriotic Christmas Tree decorated on behalf of the Aware Shelter at the Michigan Theatre during the Christmas season...



New Year Celebration! June Poleski, Mary and Tom Christoff enjoying some punch and appetizers in January....

2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- February 11, 2012
- March 3, 2012
- April 14, 2012
- May 5, 2012
- June 2, 2012
- July 14, 2012
- August 4, 2012
- September 8, 2012
- October 6, 2012
- November 3, 2012
- December 1, 2012



All meetings will be held at [Steve's Ranch House](#) (311 Louis Glick Hwy, Jackson, MI 49201) and start at 9:00 am

Family Outreach Campaign Successes

The JCRC launched the Family Outreach Campaign in September 2011 with a Backpack/School Supplies Drive to benefit Partnership Park Downtown Neighborhood Association. Enough supplies were collected to help the neighborhood children in need and provide supplies for the after-school program.

In October, the FOC partnered with the Michigan Center Lioness Club collecting hats, gloves and scarves for the Warm Head and Hands Campaign. County Commissioner Carl Rice was pivotal in the collection efforts. "Center Attractions in Leoni Township seemed like an ideal drop-off point. The owner welcomed us and the collection site resulted in several large bags of the needed items. Prior to Christmas, I stopped by the Lioness club and the Family Outreach Campaign was highly successful. The bags of new hats, gloves and scarves collected by the lady lionesses covered the wall of the club. Giving the lady lionesses extra work, but a blessed opportunity to provide Christmas baskets to over a hundred families in our community", explained Rice.

Christoff and Sons Floor Covering continues to be the drop-off location for the FOC and co-owner and Executive Committee member, Tom Christoff, is very moved by this ongoing project. "The Michigan Center Lioness Club received so much that they had to consider giving away more than they had planned. Going into this year, they were going to have to cut back and do half of what they did last year. Last year the Lionesses had to buy more gloves and hats with their funds, but they had no funds to do that this year. But for them to meet their list, it was beyond their imagination and it touched their hearts that they were going to be able to find more people to help this year. They were blessed by being able to help more families", Christoff said.

Tom Christoff wasn't sure that he was on board with the Family Outreach Campaign in the beginning, but he is a firm believer now. "My first thought was that we were doing what a stereotypical democrat would do, but I quickly found out that I was wrong. The benefit is when someone is in need and hurting, it goes beyond party lines. It is the golden rule. It benefits the party in re-branding us. There's always a return on your giving", Christoff continued. So where would our return be? From the feedback. Christoff explains, "It changes peoples opinions of us from 'those republicans', to someone you can relate to. At that moment, you haven't changed their political opinion, but changed their opinion of who you are, so you can discuss issues with them. By re-branding ourselves, we can be compassionate and conservative at the same time."

In November, the JCRC collected non-perishable food items on behalf of the St. Vincent DePaul Society and in December, new toys were given to Toys for Tots. During the Christmas season, the FOC decorated a patriotic Christmas tree and collected monetary "votes" to benefit the Aware Shelter.

2012 will bring a new list of recipients so please be involved and enjoy the blessing of giving! God bless you for your support.

A Note from Rep. Mike Shirkey



Jobs remain "Job # 1" in 2012. The combination of tax reforms, workers compensation reforms, unemployment insurance reforms, and a growing list of regulatory reforms and eliminations all contribute to help Michigan become a better place to provide a job. As we all recognize, before we can expect to make Michigan a better place

to "find" a job we first have to create an environment where Michigan is a better place to "provide" a job. We have made aggressive steps in this regard and have already begun to see some results. Michigan received recognition recently from Bloomberg Financial ranking our state as one of the most promising for economic recovery.

We have also afforded significant attention to education reform. The work we have done in this area is certainly not without its critics. Tenure reform, uncapping Charter school limitations, protecting taxpayer exposure to runaway spending for public employee benefits, and many other actions have resulted in re-establishing a foundation to build upon. I am very excited about being selected to be part of a bi-partisan, bicameral work group assigned to make recommendations on what specific quality metrics Michigan should adopt in order to insure our children have more robust opportunities to reach their potential. Further, it is my hope this same effort will result in further reforms to unleash the creative and professional potential of our legions of dedicated teachers and educators.

By most measures what we accomplished in 2011 not only far exceeds political establishment expectations but also sets a standard of performance our leadership is committed to maintain into 2012. Transportation and infrastructure, further regulatory reforms, continued rebuilding of our education system, and JOBS will be our main areas of focus going forward. Personally, in addition to these areas, I remain dedicated to advancing the cause for Michigan to become a Labor Freedom (aka Right to Work) state, to promoting more free market influence into our energy policies, and to doing whatever necessary to fight the damaging effects of Obamacare. Thank you for the privilege to serve in this role. It is a high honor and a humbling experience. I will endeavor to do my best to continue to earn and deserve your support.

The Richardville Report

As we look ahead in 2012, the Senate will join with the Governor and House to once again focus on reforms and improving the economy in Michigan. Above all else, we once again commit to the goal we identified a year ago: jobs. My colleagues and I in the Senate want to help build a better Michigan where every person who is looking for work or looking for a better job has the opportunity to succeed. Michigan must be a place where our hard-working, well-educated children want to stay; where our grandchildren are born and raised and where families can call themselves Michiganders generation after generation.

Not too long ago, Michigan epitomized the American Dream. Our state was a place where hard work and dedication meant good jobs and great communities. Over the course of the past year the Governor, House and Senate began to lay the foundation for a stronger, more attractive economy by simplifying our tax structure, eliminating red tape and easing the state's burden on our job providers all in an effort to create a better environment for job growth.

We have yet to see the full effects of many of the reforms signed into law over the course of the past 12 months. This will be a year to take stock of the changes and improvements made in all areas touched by state government and to measure those achievements against the intended goal.

We are committed to continue our work in the Senate to ensure that the hard-earned dollars of our citizens are used wisely and that government continues to make common sense improvements. We are just starting to see the evidence of new growth and economic improvement in Michigan and elected officials must continue to make responsible decisions about state government. We demand a government that is more accountable and more efficient.

This year will again be about doing the most we can to spur job growth. It will be about more efficient and effective government, about improving our infrastructure and responding to the needs of our citizens. I commend Governor Snyder for once again creating a clear vision for Michigan. The Senate looks forward to working with the Governor and the House to continue on the pathway to building a better Michigan, together.”

- Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville



How do I become a Precinct Delegate?

A precinct delegate has decided to work toward better government on local, state and national levels, which will result in making our country a better place to live. A precinct delegate is a registered voter in the precinct where they reside, who decides to file a notarized Affidavit of Identity with the township, city or county clerk, resulting in their name being placed on the August primary ballot. If elected in the August primary, a precinct delegate will go on to serve a 2-year term where they are a representative of their precinct, which could be up to 2,999 people. It is the responsibility of the precinct delegate to represent his or her District at Republican County Conventions. After that, interest in representing Jackson at State Conventions is a possibility.

Visit <http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com/get-involved/precinct-delegate/> for more details and to sign up.

Please come to the next Delegate Training Session conducted by a representative from the Michigan Republican Party. New and current Delegates will learn the importance of Delegates and how to become a more effective Precinct Delegate.

Saturday, March 3rd at 10:30 am at Steve's Ranch
311 Louis Glick Hwy, Jackson, MI 49201.

BECOME A
PRECINCT
DELEGATE