



# ELEPHANT TALES

The official publication of the Jackson County Republican Party

[www.jacksonrepublicans.com](http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com)

Winter 2011 Edition



Join the Jackson Republican Party as we welcome

## GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER

To the 2011 LINCOLN DAY DINNER

Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 6 p.m. at Commonwealth Commerce Center

## STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

An essay contest will be held in conjunction with the *Lincoln Day Dinner* on March 21, 2011. Governor Rick Snyder will be the featured speaker at the event. Writers of the top two winning essays out of eight finalists will receive a **\$250 cash prize** each awarded at the dinner. High school and college essays will be judged separately with four finalists selected from each group.

Students may choose from one of two topics:

- 1) **The responsibilities of citizenship in the United States.**
- 2) **Strategies to encourage participation by Jackson youth in local politics.**

Students may attend any school (even out-of-state), but must be residents of Jackson County between the ages of 16 and 22. Judges are Jonathan Williams, June Poleski and Amy McBain. Judges will generally look for MLA format (Modern Language Association). Judges will give equal weight to content, grammar, punctuation and spelling. The deadline to submit the essays is 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2011. The essays should be emailed as attachments to [secretary@jacksonrepublicans.com](mailto:secretary@jacksonrepublicans.com). Entries may also be submitted at the Jackson County Republican Party website at [www.jacksonrepublicans.com](http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com). The left hand corner of the cover page should include the student's name, date of birth, residence address, email and telephone contact. The topic title should be centered. Essays should be written in 12 point Times Roman font, double-spaced, paragraphs indented and limited to three pages or less with one inch margins.



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**Jackson County Republican Party  
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Randy Richardville

Amanda Riska

Mike Shirkey

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Mike Swope

Kathleen Thorrez

Phil Tripp

Jared Vickers

Jim Videto

Mike Way

Jon Williams

Hank Zavislak

## Chairman's Minute

The elections in November 2010 were very successful at the local, state, and national level for Republican candidates. This success was a result of numerous factors, first and foremost we had a message and good candidates. However there was one factor that was really monumental, involvement of people. People that had never been involved in candidates' campaigns in the past got involved.

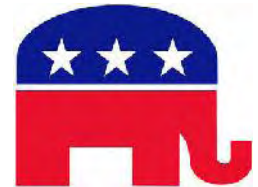
The election of 2012 will have even greater significance; it will require an informed and energized voter. The Jackson County Republican Party's main goal this year is to build on people involvement. The Jackson GOP is a group of volunteers that share the values of liberty, freedom, personal responsibility, and respect for our constitution.

Involvement in the Jackson GOP gives the opportunity to get to know your elected officials, candidates, and the issues at local, state, and national levels. We invite you to visit [www.jacksonrepublicans.com](http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com) and click on the "Get Involved" tab, join us to make sure 2012 is successful for the candidates that share your values and principles. Government should respect its constitutional limits and give people the freedom to live their lives.

The Jackson GOP committee is made up of veteran and new members that welcome everyone that wants to get involved. Come join us and we will make a difference.

*Hank Choate*

Jackson County Republican Chair



## IN MEMORIAM ~ KENNETH BEARDSLEE



On January 24th of this year, Jackson County and the Republican Party lost a friend, an active member and a leader when Kenneth Beardslee passed away. Ken served Spring Arbor College (now University) in various capacities for 41 years and the Western School District Board for 38 years, including 26 years as President.

Ken was County Chair for Ronald Reagan's Presidential Campaign in 1980, and with his wife, Estelle Beardslee, received the Haskell and Mary Nichols award in 1982. He was named the Republican of the Year in 1988.

In 2000, Ken was designated the Citizen of the Year by the Jackson Citizen Patriot. In 1992, he was elected to the Jackson County Commission as a Republican. To all of us who knew him, he will be greatly missed.

*-Written by Bruce Barton*

## THE GOVERNOR IS COMING!

The Lincoln Day Dinner Committee is going strong and enthusiasm grows more each day as we continue to plan this great event! March 21<sup>st</sup> is right around the corner and it's very important that we each get the word out and sell tickets to be successful in our Fund-Raising venture!

**This year's Lincoln Day Dinner will be held on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Commonwealth Commerce Center in the East Side Ballroom (Parking off E. Washington). Pre-Registration is at 5 p.m. with the Event starting promptly at 6 p.m.** Please contact Mike Way @ 517-474-1326 to purchase tickets.

### Ticket options available:



\$75.00 Individual Ticket includes Speaker/Dinner/Festivities **(Please note this ticket does not include reserved seating)**

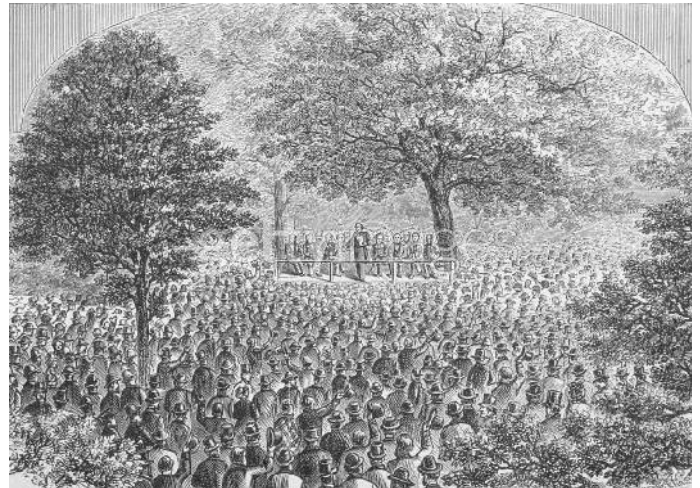
\$1000.00 Corporate Tables: Reserved Seating and includes 1 Individual Photo-Op with the Governor/Reception Ticket as well as acknowledgement through advertisement in the Program.

\$2500.00 Dignitary Tables: Reserved Seating and includes 2 Individual Photo-Op with the Governor/Reception Tickets as well as acknowledgement through advertisement in the Program.

\$150.00 Photo-Op with the Governor, Hosted by the 300 Club Pre-Event Reception in the Atrium (Suite 299) at the Commonwealth Commerce Center at 5pm. Parking is off Francis St. Please contact Michelle Brown to obtain these tickets at 517-745-0550; they are limited in number so get them reserved ASAP. (Please also note this ticket will not include the dinner price, however all proceeds go to the JCRC).

- Phil Tripp and Michelle Brown  
Co-Chairs, 2011 Lincoln Day Dinner

## UNDER THE OAKS by Bruce Barton



On July 6, 1854, thousands of Americans arrived in Jackson, Michigan to begin what might be called a 'New Revolution'; a peaceful revolution which would oppose politicians who allowed ownership of human beings based on the color of their skin.

In recent years, Republicans and other citizens have gathered at the location of that event; the corner of Franklin and Second Streets, on its Anniversary, to commemorate the birth of the political party which now stands for the traditional and social principles commonly known as "Conservative Values".

We will gather again this year on July 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to improve the annual event and to increase awareness that the Republican Party is the best guardian of the basic ideals of our Nation. Please plan to join us on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

### 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- March 5, 2011
- April 2, 2011
- May 7, 2011
- June 4, 2011
- July 9, 2011
- August 6, 2011
- September 10, 2011
- October 1, 2011
- November 5, 2011
- December 3, 2011



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

## LINCOLN DAY DINNER AUCTION NEWS

As we approach the upcoming Lincoln Day Dinner and hundreds of tickets are being sold to many in our Community, I'd like to share some of the special additions that are unique to this year's *Elegant Dining Event*.

- ❖ John Burtka from *Cherry Creek Wine* has generously donated all of the Wine at each of our Dining Tables!

Also special to this year's event is a **Live Auction** with an Entertaining Auctioneer who we guarantee will encourage our guests into pulling out those wallets for this GOP fundraiser. So far we have many generous Auction items that we hope you mention to your friends to consider prior to arriving. I would love to hear from you if you personally have items from your business to donate or can assist me in procuring items. Our best items come from personal relationships with the business people of Jackson. Please contact me, **Kathleen Thorrez at 745-0002** if you have something that would add value to this elegant evening.

Here are some of the incredible **Auction Packages** that have been built for you to bid on:

- ❖ **Marriott Manor Club at Ford Colony Williamsburg, Virginia:**

### **A One-week 2 Bedroom Deluxe Vacation.**

Located near Historical Colonial Williamsburg, the site of the first English Settlement as well as the settlements of Jamestown and Yorktown. The resort is also close to Busch Gardens, Washington DC and other historical monuments, great golf courses and hundreds of activities. This is valued at \$2200.00!

- ❖ **160,000 Frequent Flyer miles** for travel in multiple ways, whether crossing the continent, traveling internationally or First Class.
- ❖ **A Brand New iPad** valued at \$600.00 Donated by Ambs Messaging Service.
- ❖ **A Spa Package**, which includes a European Facial, Massage, Pedicure and Manicure.
- ❖ **An accessorized outdoor patio seating arrangement**, with donations from Vermeulen's Furniture, Anna's Gifts, Embellishments and Christoff Carpeting.
- ❖ **A dinner for Six prepared by Chocolate Mousse Catering** in your home. Learn how to prepare a gourmet meal while entertaining your guests for the evening.



Aren't these exciting Auction Packages? This year's Lincoln Day Dinner is bound to be a spectacular success with your generous participation! Thank you in advance.

- **Kathleen Thorrez**, Lincoln Day Dinner Auction Committee

## March is Reading Month!

State Representatives **Earl Poleski** and **Mike Shirkey** are encouraging all local elementary school teachers to contact their offices to schedule a day for them to visit their classrooms to read to students next month in honor of March is Reading Month.

Local teachers and school staff are encouraged to contact Shirkey and Poleski if they want them to visit their classroom. People can call Rep. Shirkey's office at (517) 373-1775, or e-mail him at <mailto:MikeShirkey@house.mi.gov> to set up a time to read. Poleski is available Mondays and Fridays. People can contact Rep. Poleski at his Lansing office at 517-373-1795 or e-mail him at [earlpoleski@house.mi.gov](mailto:earlpoleski@house.mi.gov).

## Upcoming 2011 Events:

<b>March 21:</b>	<i>Lincoln Day Dinner</i>
<b>June 5:</b>	<i>Rose Parade</i>
<b>June 17-19:</b>	<i>MIS Race Fundraiser Event*</i>
<b>July 6:</b>	<i>Under the Oaks</i>
<b>August 7-15:</b>	<i>Jackson County Fair Booth</i>
<b>September:</b>	<i>Reagan Ranch BBQ</i>

**\*MIS Race Event:** This is a new Fundraiser opportunity that the JCRC Events Committee is exploring. With ten volunteers committed to working all day in booths, stands and at gates, we could make \$2500! Can we count on you?

Elephant Tales Editor: **Cathy Keller**  
*A Special Thanks to Dr. Jane Grover* for her  
Donation of the Printing Costs!

## From... *Walberg's Weekly Wrap-Up*

Congressman Tim Walberg recently participated in a congressional hearing which focused on the regulatory barriers to spurring job growth and expanding the economy. The hearing was conducted by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and was entitled, "Regulatory Impediments to Job Creation." The witnesses included small Business owners, manufacturers and regulatory scholars.



Among the many facts uncovered in this oversight hearing, one representative of manufacturers testified that a single company could be burdened with a \$1 billion price tag in compliance costs for a proposed Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation.

"I think Congress is finally getting it right", Walberg said. "Instead of once again telling business people how to run their organizations, the new Republican-led House was able to hear directly from the true experts on job creation – those men and women business-owners who are on the front lines everyday working to create new American jobs. We must take their advice and remove unnecessary regulatory barriers so that we can create good-paying, high-quality jobs in Michigan and elsewhere in the US."

Sign up for Congressman Tim Walberg's Weekly Wrap-Up at <http://walberg.house.gov/>.  
(517) 780-9075 or (202) 225-6276

## From the desk of.....

*Events Chair, Ann Sommer-Smith*

Organizations depend on donations to survive and flourish. The JCRC is no exception. In addition to membership dues, we depend on fundraisers. Monetary donations are important but your time, ideas and efforts are even more important. Our traditional fundraisers:

- ✓ **Lincoln Day Dinner:** Co-Chairs, Phil Tripp and Michelle Brown
- ✓ **Reagan BBQ:** Chairman needed

In Conjunction with these events, we have traditionally held an auction. Donations of auction items are needed. In order for fundraisers to be successful, we need to be visible in the community. Events that support this effort:

- ✓ **Rose Parade:** Chairman and ideas needed.
- ✓ **Under the Oaks:** Chair, Bruce Barton, Vice-Chair, Leland Prebble
- ✓ **County Fair Booth:** Chairmen needed

Look for other events throughout the year in the community and for the initiation of regular Republican Town Hall Meetings. Many hands make light work. New ideas are welcome! Please contact Ann Smith at [arumsithret@yahoo.com](mailto:arumsithret@yahoo.com) or call 517-740-1961.

## Coffee Break News from State Representative Earl Poleski: *"My Committee Assignments"*

At the start of a new term, individual members are selected to serve on a number of important legislative committees. Each committee is made up of a fraction of the general House membership and concentrates on a particular area of legislative development. Typically, committee members are the first to take testimony on legislation before it is allowed to be heard on the floor of the Michigan House.

Committee assignments are not random appointments -- they are the result of a long, deliberative process, which prioritizes the expertise, experience and education of every single House lawmaker. Speaker Bolger ultimately determines in which areas a lawmaker's faculties or interests are best utilized toward the formation of good public policy.

As such, I am honored to announce that I have been selected to serve as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Chair of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on General Government, and Vice-Chair of three additional Appropriations Sub-Committees (School Aid/K-12, Education, and Fiscal Oversight, Audit, and Litigation). This committee is central to the reconciliation of our budget deficit and will provide me great influence in addressing our state's chronic spending problems for the long term.



## Notes from State Representative Mike Shirkey

State Rep. Mike Shirkey, was named vice chair of the House Energy and Technology Committee and will serve on the House Commerce Committee, placing him in a key position to help foster job growth and improve the state's economy. Shirkey, an engineer and small-business owner, said his main priority is to help foster a business environment dedicated to job creation and growth.



The 65th District lawmaker also will serve on two other top-tier committees, the House committees on regulatory reform and health policy. His experience as a business owner and 15-year member of the

Allegiance Health board, with eight years as board chair, will give him special insight on the committees. Shirkey will also serve on the House Commerce Subcommittee on Economic Development and Trade. The subcommittee was created to bring greater attention and action to improving the economy.

"This is outstanding news as it allows me to use my business and education background along with my creative energies on how to make it easier to do business in Michigan," said Shirkey, R-Clarklake. "Everyone realizes that Job 1 in Lansing is jobs, and this new subcommittee will put a laser-light focus on job creation. The appointment also allows me to have a greater impact on policy development with my other committee assignments on Energy and Technology and Regulatory Reform."

### Lola's Words of Wisdom...

"The best thing about being active in the Party on levels from the County to the District to the State to the National scene is that although there were levels of slight disagreement at times, for the most part we all had the same ideals and work ethics and simply strongly identified with the group we were with at the time. It is gratifying to have the support of members all over the State of Michigan and to return that support always knowing how much effort and resources had been put forth by your contemporaries. The friendships developed over the years have been long lasting and it's like school chums -- you can pick up on some memories and talk long into the night without missing a beat. Republicans make good friends."

– *Lola Peterson*

### Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville Comments on Gov. Snyder's Budget Presentation

"I think we all know the reality of our situation here in Michigan. Times are tough and the Governor's budget represents a number of tough decisions he believes are necessary to get our fiscal house in order," said Richardville. "I look forward to reviewing all of the finer points of this proposal and conferring with my colleagues in the Senate so that we can begin to move forward with the budget process and develop a reasonable, long-term solution for Michigan. The citizens of our great state deserve nothing less."

### JCRC Sub-Committees...NEED YOU!

The success of the JCRC is contingent upon the participation of ALL of its Members! There are many opportunities to share your time and talents within our sub-committees. Some roles have been filled and some leadership roles are waiting for *YOU*\*! Please get involved today! It is fun and rewarding and an opportunity to share your vision with the Jackson County Republican Committee.

#### Membership and Outreach

**Sub-Committee:** Phil Tripp

**Public Relations Sub-Committee:**

Jane Grover

**Events Sub-Committee:** Ann Smith

**Finance Sub-Committee:** Tony Bair

**Headquarters and Volunteers Sub-Committee:** *open\**

**Issues, Nominations, and Candidate Recruitment Sub-Committee:** *open\**



## An Update from the State Capitol



**Senator Mike Nofs**  
District 19

Last November Michigan voters sent a clear message that fundamental change to the way our state does business must occur. With both chambers of the legislature and the executive office controlled by Republicans, the responsibility and accountability for Michigan's recovery has been placed in our hands.

Although the decisions made in the coming months will be difficult, real change can only occur when state leaders are willing to make unpopular decisions to break the cycle of short-term solutions to long-term problems.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> Governor Snyder presented his proposed 2012-13 budget. As advertised, his plan includes numerous proposals for structural change to the methods of taxation in Michigan. The major highlights are the replacement of the Michigan Business Tax with a flat 6% Corporate Income Tax and the expansion of the base of the Individual Income Tax to capture all individual income earned in the state regardless of source. A detailed presentation of the proposed 2012-13 budget can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/budget>.

With so many drastic changes proposed in the budget, it is easy to get swept up in the hype or negativity of a single provision. It is important to remember that the executive budget is just the starting point for debate. I encourage all of the citizens of Jackson County to take a deep breath and an impartial look at what the best course of action for our state will be. It is an honor and privilege to serve you and I look forward to the opportunity to act on reforms that everyone in Michigan can be proud of.

## January 2011 County Convention

The January 2011 County Convention took place on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the County Tower Building. Those in attendance selected delegates to the State Convention held January 28-29 in Grand Rapids as well as electing three members of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Committee. Those elected to the 7<sup>th</sup> District Committee were **Bruce Barton, Ray Kuzminski and Del Anteau**. *Congratulations!*

## State Convention Report: Republican Leadership Ready for 2012 Victory

Michigan Republican Party Chairman **Bobby Schostak** welcomed and congratulated the new GOP Team following the Republican Convention on January 29 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

"It is an honor to serve as Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party," Schostak said. "The delegates provided me with a great team to implement our grassroots plan for victory in 2012. In 2010 we had the wind at our back. In 2012, we know the wind will be in our face, but I'm confident in our leadership team, the grassroots and the Tea Party activists and 9/12 groups and our ability to work together to win. We all want the same thing: to make Obama a one-term president. We are focused, we are energized; we are ready."

Along with Schostak, the leadership team consists of:

**Sharon Wise**, Co-Chair

**Victor Diaz**, Coalitions Vice-Chair

**Eileen McNeil**, Outreach Vice-Chair

**Steven Kuivenhoven**, Grassroots Vice-Chair

**Linda Lee Tarver**, Ethnic Vice-Chair

**Jon Nunn**, Administrative Vice-Chair

**Sarah Ledford**, Youth Vice-Chair



## 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](mailto:EarlPoleski@house.mi.gov)

Website: [www.RepPoleski.com](http://www.RepPoleski.com)

**Rep. Mike Shirkey**: (517) 373-1775

Email: [MikeShirkey@house.mi.gov](mailto:MikeShirkey@house.mi.gov)

Web: [www.representativemikeshirkey.com](http://www.representativemikeshirkey.com)

**Sen. Mike Nofs**: 517-373-2426

Email: [senmnofs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmnofs@senate.michigan.gov)

Website: [www.senatormikenofs.com](http://www.senatormikenofs.com)

**Sen. Randy Richardville**: (517) 373-3543

Email: [senrichardville@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senrichardville@senate.michigan.gov)

Website: [www.senatorrandyrichardville.com](http://www.senatorrandyrichardville.com)

**Congressman Tim Walberg**: (202) 225-6276

Email: form on website

Website: [www.walberg.house.gov](http://www.walberg.house.gov)

**JCRC**: (517) 783-2697

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

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





# Jackson County Republican Party

Jackson County Republican Party  
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Jackson, MI 49203

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## Membership.... Why it is Vital

Phil Tripp's vision for JCRC membership as the Chair of the Membership Subcommittee is to convince Jackson that the GOP is INCLUSIVE and not EXCLUSIVE! He wants to reach out to Republicans and Conservatives in Jackson who have never been to a JCRC Event, and have only voted in past elections – like he used to do. Phil wants to let Jackson know who the GOP is and what we do. It is the goal of the Membership Committee to identify and support members of the GOP from the School Board level on up. We need to ACTIVATE existing, registered Republicans in Jackson by IDENTIFYING, CONTACTING and INVOLVING them! “We can't wait for Election Day”, Phil said, “We all have a sphere of influence and it's very important that we recognize this. If every Republican reached out to two more voters and drew them in, imagine the impact that would make!”

Phil is planning a Membership Drive starting in April and going through the fall. He has ideas to inspire and challenge the JCRC to make a difference in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, through grassroots efforts and by reaching out to college students. Phil envisions Summer BBQ's, Picnics, and Block Parties.... fun events that you will want to bring a friend to. But he needs volunteers and excited participants to make these ideas a reality.

The Membership Committee wants to start at the Delegate level and encourage all of our Delegates to join the JCRC and get even more people involved to spread the Conservative Message to Jackson. Phil would like to revisit the Levels of Membership with recognition through a Membership Card, a lapel pin and other tangible items that signify membership in the JCRC. These are simple ways to build relationships with our members and they can't be overlooked. If our members feel recognized and appreciated, they will be more likely to support our efforts when it comes time to raise funds for candidates. Please think of ways that you can get involved and make our membership efforts successful. “We could even double our membership ranks if we do this right!”, said Phil.

- Written by Cathy Keller