

# ELEPHANT TALES

The official publication of the Jackson County Republican Party

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

Summer 2007 Edition

## Karl Rove wows Jackson GOP Lincoln Day Dinner

By Kevin Brownlow

The 2007 Jackson County Lincoln Day Dinner was another great success.

On March 24 more than 200 people gathered at Daryl's Downtown Banquet Facility to hear Karl Rove give an impassioned speech about the domestic and foreign policies of the Bush administration.

The main topic focused on the Iraq War. Rove stressed that the recently announced Troop surge in Baghdad must be given time to be fully implemented before it is deemed a failure. He also made the case that the Iraq War Funding bill needed to be passed without \$21 billion of pork.

Rove also spoke to the domestic agenda of the President and stressed the importance that taxes should not be raised. He said any kind of tax increase would be the fastest way to kill our economy.

Along with the keynote address by Rove, many of the leaders of the Republican Party in the State House and Senate gave legislative reports on the state of Michigan's current budget issues. Reps. Jones, Caswell and Nofs, as well as Sen. Richardville and former Sen. Mike Goschka were in attendance. Congressman Tim Walberg gave a report and introduced our speaker.

This year's award winners include: Mike Swope, Republican of the Year; Mary and Phil Berkemeier, Haskell &



Mary Nichols Award; and Ada Hurula, the Hazel Mellon Award. Lola Peterson also received a Lifetime Achievement Award dedicated to all of her hard work for the Jackson County Republican Party.

For the first time, a silent auction was held at the dinner which raised an additional \$1200 for the party coffers.

### In this Issue

Chairman's Minute. . . . .	2
Michigan Women's Political Empowerment Network (MW-PEN) . . . .	3
2008 Republican Presidential Candidates . . . . .	4
Member Spotlight: Jared Vickers . .	4
State and 7 <sup>TH</sup> District News . . . . .	4
U.S. Congress: Walberg Legislative Update . . . . .	5
State Senate: Richardville Legislative Update . . . . .	5
UPCOMING EVENTS. . . . .	6

## Jackson County GOP News

### Jackson GOP to hold first Family Picnic

The Jackson GOP will be holding the first annual Family Picnic on June 24, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the home of Larry & Kaye Baxter, 3945 N. Sandstone Rd. This is a free, family friendly event, so feel bring to bring your family, a passing dish and lawn chairs! We will have lots of fun activities including sand volleyball and horseshoes and activities for kids. Come meet other Republicans at what is going to be a fun event. Please e-mail us at [rsvp@jacksonrepublicans.com](mailto:rsvp@jacksonrepublicans.com) to RSVP.

### Under the Oaks Commemoration Upcoming

The annual Under the Oaks Commemoration will be on July 6, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Under the Oaks Park on the corner of Second & Franklin Streets. Please join us to hear stories and other history about the founding of the Republican Party.

### Vickers Elected to Executive Committee

The vacancy on the Executive Committee was filled at the May 5 Executive Committee meeting with Jared Vickers becoming the newest Executive Committee member. Jared will make a great addition to the Executive Committee and has already been an active member even before being elected to the EC. As some may know, Jared's dad is Don Vickers, former candidate for the State House in the 67th District and a current State Committee member.

**Jackson County  
Republican Party  
Executive Committee**

Rick Baxter, Chair  
Donna Cartmell, Vice-Chair  
Kevin Brownlow, Secretary  
Greg Wilson, Treasurer

Tony Bair  
Bruce Barton  
Ira Combs  
Sandra Crowley  
Phil Duckham  
David Elwell  
Elizabeth Fulton  
Dean Gutekunst  
Cliff Herl  
Dan Hyens  
Jack Hurula  
David Lady  
David Lutchka  
Leslie Mortimer  
Bill Mosher  
Lola Peterson  
Earl Poleski  
Mindy Reilly  
Judy Reynolds  
Randy Richardville  
Pam Sass  
Steve Shotwell  
Ray Snell  
Geoffrey Synder  
Joan Spicer  
Michael Swope  
Jon Throne  
Jared Vickers  
Jim Videto  
Roger Warren  
Mike Way  
Jon Williams  
Greg Wilson  
Hank Zavislak

**Editor: Lola Peterson**

Creative Director: Kevin Brownlow

Contributors: Rick Baxter, Kevin Brownlow, Leslie Mortimer, Lola Peterson.

**CHAIRMAN'S MINUTE** By Rick Baxter

We have had a busy last couple of months and an even busier summer ahead of us. The Executive committee has successfully re-written the by-laws and is hard at work making their voices heard around the county. The Lincoln Day Dinner was a success with over 200 folks in attendance, not to mention the protesters outside.

With the 2008 election filing deadline less than a year away it is important that our Republican Party here in Jackson become involved in the upcoming election cycle. We encourage you to think about becoming a precinct delegate and volunteering to work on a committee for our candidates.

We are blessed to have Republicans representing us in the U.S. House of Representatives, a portion of us in the State Senate and at the County and local levels, but it is time we fight

back and turn what is the home of the Republican Party RED again.

We are currently working a summer events the first of which is a family picnic, free of charge, at Kaye and Larry Baxter's home on June 24th. All GOP supporters, new and old, are invited to get to know one another. Other than your family and lawn chairs it would be helpful to bring a passing dish. The main dish and drinks will be furnished.

Information on the Under the Oaks celebration and the Golf Outing will be available on the website.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM. Please call the office with your intention to attend so we can give you the location. At present we are dealing with construction efforts.

**Michigan Not Represented**

**Michigan U.S. Senators choose Democratic Party over people of Michigan**

Washington D.C. - Michigan U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow once again demonstrated that they are more interested in party line than representing their constituents, voting against making English the official language of the United States, an issue that 74% of Michigan voters support.

"Levin and Stabenow once again demonstrated that they have no interest in representing the people who elected them," Michigan Republican Party Chairman Saulius "Saul" Anuzis said today. "A poll taken right before last year's election showed that 3 out of every 4 Michigan voters support making English the official language of the United States. Given the opportunity to take the voice of the voters to Washington, Levin and Stabenow opted to follow the Democratic Party

line instead."

The U.S. Senate voted Thursday to make English the official language of the U.S. as part of the overall immigration reform package despite the nay votes of Levin and Stabenow.



**GOP Web Links**

**Republican National Committee**  
[www.gop.org](http://www.gop.org)

**Michigan Republican Party**  
[www.migop.org](http://www.migop.org)

**White House**  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

## U.S. Congress: Walberg Legislative Update



Congressman  
Tim Walberg

Since I began my first term in Congress last month, I've been asked numerous times if I feel the Republican Party has a problem with its "brand."

As I travel across my south-central Michigan district and meet with my constituents, I realize a great amount of uncertainty exists as to what the Republican brand really is.

I agree with my respected House colleague Mike Pence, who often says Republicans lost the majority in Congress last year "because we walked away from the limited government principles that minted the Republican Congress."

Today, our country faces an uncer-

tain future internationally, and while our national economy continues to grow at a slow pace, many areas of the country, like my home state of Michigan, still face high unemployment and serious economic problems.

During these trying times, the American public wants leaders who don't make decisions solely to secure their political futures and maintain the status quo in Washington, D.C.

Instead, our country longs for real leadership and resolve, men and women who share a vision of making America the "shining city upon a hill" President Ronald Reagan so often referred to.

I humbly offer four core principles I feel Republicans must uphold as we seek to restore public confidence in the Republican brand name.

- Bring fiscal responsibility back to Congress

- Conduct ourselves with the highest ethical standards
- Defend America's hard-earned freedoms
- Pursue effective and innovative solutions to problems we currently face without expanding the size and scope of government

Ten years ago Republicans were known as the party of Ronald Reagan, but big-government policies supported by the past few sessions of Congress muddled and transformed the American public's perception of our party.

If we can follow the principles listed above in such a way that Americans can discern the difference between our core values and those of the opposing party, Republicans will have an identity to be proud of.

- Congressman Tim Walberg

## State Senate: Richardville Legislative Update



State Senator  
Randy Richardville

As Michigan's long-awaited summer arrives, I'm pleased to report on the work the legislature has been doing in Lansing. Please know first, that Senate Majority

Leader Mike Bishop and the Senate Republican Caucus is fighting for all of you in Lansing. Early on we rejected the governor's massive tax hike on services and negotiations continue on plans to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 08. Our caucus continues to push for meaningful government reforms in an effort to balance the budget.

In addition to work on the budget, many of you may remember that earlier this year I hosted the Senate Prison

Reform and Public Safety Subcommittee at Jackson Community College. This was in response to the governor's unilateral decision to close the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility and release thousands of prisoners.

After conducting an overall assessment of the Department of Corrections, the subcommittee released its recommendations to further protect public safety and increase efficient use of taxpayer dollars as costs escalate. The report is part of a series of ongoing reforms being proposed by Senate Republicans to streamline state government.

The subcommittee report includes several recommendations to improve the state's corrections system, including: allow initial mental health care assessments to be provided via teleconferencing; obtain performance audits from the auditor general to eliminate

waste and duplication and improve overall operational cost-effectiveness; and reject the governor's plan to release 6,000 felons.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to enact these and other significant government reforms and be a voice for the people of Jackson County in the Michigan Senate.

-Sen. Randy Richardville

### Michigan Legislative Links

Michigan State House  
[www.house.mi.gov](http://www.house.mi.gov)

Michigan State Senate  
[www.senate.mi.gov](http://www.senate.mi.gov)

Michigan Legislature  
[www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)

# Michigan Women's Political Empowerment Network (MW-PEN)

By Leslie Mortimer

Women comprise half of the world's population and carry out two thirds of the world's work. But, in the political arena, women are vastly "missing in action." In the past decade the number of elected women to state legislatures across the country has decreased from 28% to 22%. In Michigan, only 7 out of the state's 148 legislative seats are held by Republican women, a dismal 4.7%. MW-PEN's goal is to increase Republican women legislative representation in Michigan to establish proportionate gender leadership. To achieve this goal we will:

- Educate women on policy issues and how to advance those ideals

- Foster networking among Republican women in Michigan's
- Provide training in campaign and fund-raising management
- Develop a website and distribute a bi-monthly newsletter
- Develop and implement a strategy for winning women's races in 2008

Our website will be on line in about two weeks. I would like to thank the women and men who have given generously to support MW-PEN. You may also donate on line at [www.premierbenefactorservices.com/mwpen/](http://www.premierbenefactorservices.com/mwpen/) or mail a check to Michigan Women's Political Empowerment Network, P. O. Box 17171, Lansing, MI 48901-7171. Thank you. You can also call me at 517-392-2117.

## Jackson GOP Needs Your Help!

If you have any interest in serving on the County Executive Committee please call the office and ask for an application. We currently have a vacancy and want to be sure everyone is aware of the opportunity.

We also have room for more workers on

our local focus areas: Finance, Events, Issues, Nominations & Candidate Recruitment, Public Relations and Headquarters/Volunteers.

The road to victory is paved with enthusiastic and committed volunteers who know the the Republican Way is the Better Way. We encourage your participation and want you to know how welcome you will be.

## 2008 Republican Presidential Candidates

**Sam Brownback**

[www.brownback.org](http://www.brownback.org)

**Jim Gilmore**

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

**Rudy Giuliani**

[www.joinrudy2008.com](http://www.joinrudy2008.com)

**Mike Huckabee**

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

**Duncan Hunter**

[www.gohunter08.com](http://www.gohunter08.com)

**John McCain**

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

**Ron Paul**

[www.ronpaul2008.com](http://www.ronpaul2008.com)

**Mitt Romney**

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

**Tom Tancredo**

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

**Fred Thompson**

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

**Tommy Thompson**

[www.tommy2008.com](http://www.tommy2008.com)

## DO YOU WANT AN E-MAILED NEWSLETTER?

We would like to remind all that the distribution costs of the newsletter continue to rise. In this day of instant communication we are fortunate to have more than one way to communicate. Therefore we would like to give you the option of receiving the newsletter by email. (You can always print it out to read it if you are like some of us who like to hold paper in their hands or don't want to spend the time sitting in front of your terminal to do so.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Get E-Mail Updates from the Jackson County GOP

- Keep receiving the newsletter by mail.
- Start receiving the newsletter by e-mail.
- I've enclosed \$25 to renew my subscription.

(Includes 1-year membership to Jackson GOP. Make checks payable to JCRC.)

(We promise we won't send other kinds of news which you might consider junk mail unless you have indicated you would like to receive it.)

**Mail this form to:**  
2019 Fourth St., Jackson, MI 49203

## Member Spotlight: Jared Vickers

*Editors Note: Starting with this issue, we will be featuring a member of the Executive Committee. This feature will allow you to get to know your fellow executive committee members.*

By Kevin Brownlow

For Jared Vickers, the newest member of the Jackson County Republican Executive Committee, Education is a guiding force in his life.

Since graduating from Hope College in 1998 with a degree in Special Education / Elementary Education, he has spent 8 years educating children in Michigan and Illinois. While in Illinois, Jared also added a Masters of Educational Administration & Supervision from Loyola University in Chicago.

Currently, Jared is the Principal / Superintendent of White Pine Academy in Leslie, MI.

“It’s an exciting position that allows me to fulfill the duties of a Superintendent as well as interact this students on a daily basis,” Vickers said.

Talking the position at White Pine Academy is a homecoming for Vickers. He was born at Foote Hospital in Jackson in 1975 and grew up in Leslie, MI with his family, which includes his parents Don & Judy and older siblings

Darin and Darcie. As some of you may know Jared’s father Don has been a candidate for the State House and County Commissioner in the Leslie area.

Vickers also is a recently married man, who will be celebrating his first year wedding anniversary with his wife

Betsy, a social worker. The couple lives in Jackson. One fact that Vickers pointed out is their two families have been friends even before both were born.

Vickers is also no stranger to Republican politics. Most notably, Vickers has been actively involved with the campaigns of his parents. He has also been actively involved in the campaigns of Mike Rogers, Valde Garcia, Dick Posthumus and most recently Dick DeVos.

For the past months, Vickers is an active participant in the Jackson GOP leading to his election as the newest member of the Executive Committee. Not only has he attended our Executive Committee meetings he volunteered on the Lincoln Day Committee



Jared Vickers & his wife, Betsy.

and is active on the Public Relations Committee.

“My most important goal is to help local, state and national Republican candidates elected into office,” said Vickers. “My personal goal is to be an active member of the Public Relations committee and increase the communication not only to our members, but also to the citizens of Jackson County.”

### Quick Facts

**Favorite Color:** Green & White (Go State!)

**Favorite Book:** Fraternity: A Journey in Search of Five Presidents by Bob Greene

**Favorite Sports Team(s):** Michigan State and all of the Detroit Teams (especially the 1984 Tigers)

## State and 7<sup>TH</sup> District News

By Lola Peterson

The Republican Mackinac Leadership Conference convened in off-election years will be held September 21-23 on the island and the next State Committee meeting will be held Friday evening/Saturday morning at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing on August 24/25. Details may be found on the State website: [www.migop.org](http://www.migop.org).

Please note that any Republican is

welcome at these events and we encourage your participation.

As for the 7th District, we are fortunate to have three of the new State Committee Chairs in our district.

Our District Chair, Wyckham Seelig, is Chair of the EDO/Voter Contact Committee which has to do with record keeping and voter identification. Mike Troutman, our immediate past Chair heads up the Budget Committee. Lola Peterson is chairing

the Communications and Candidate Recruitment Committee.

If you have any interest in any of these committees please feel free to volunteer and know that your geographical proximity will be a distinct advantage. We can never have too much advice nor willing workers. We have a lot of work to do!

**UPCOMING**  
**Jackson GOP EVENTS**  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**FAMILY PICNIC**

Sunday, June 24, 2007

1 p.m.- 5 p.m.

3945 N. Sandstone Rd.

Directions on Website, [www.jacksonrepublicans.com](http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com)

**UNDER THE OAKS COMMEMORATION**

Friday, July 6, 2007

6:00 p.m.

Under the Oaks Park

Second & Franklin

**FIRST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

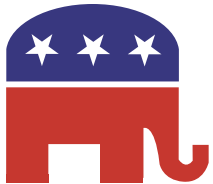
September 17, 2007

Lakeland Hills Golf Club

**From Editor**  
**Lola Peterson:**

We will be trying a few new features and our new Secretary, Website Master and Jack of all Trades, Kevin Brownlow will be working hard to make the newsletter a little more attractive.

Starting with this issue we will be featuring a member of the Executive Committee which will help all of us get to know each other a little better.



**ELEPHANT TALES**

Jackson County Republican Party

2019 Fourth Street

Jackson, MI 49203

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Jackson, Mich.  
PERMIT No. 242