

# ELEPHANT TALES

The official publication of the Jackson County Republican Party

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

Summer 2009 Edition

## Jackson GOP celebrates another successful Lincoln Day Dinner

The Jackson GOP celebrated another successful Lincoln Day Dinner on February 23 at the Arbor Hills Golf Club.

The theme for this year's Lincoln Day Dinner was "Back To Our Roots" which was a plea to get the Republican Party back to its roots that were lost over the past few years.

The event was emceed by Mike Nofs and the keynote speaker was Secretary of State Terri Lynn.

With the 2010 election cycle upcoming many of the statewide candidates were in attendance, including Secretary of State and Attorney Gen-

eral hopefuls.

The Jackson GOP also gave out its annual awards to its outstanding members. Earl & Candy Poleski received the Haskell & Mary Nichols Award; Kevin Brownlow received the Hazel Mellon Award and County Commissioner Dave Elwell



Our Keynote speaker, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

was awarded the Republican of the Year.

## Jackson GOP commemorates the founding of the Republican Party

by Bruce Barton

The American Citizen, 19th Century predecessor to the Citizen Patriot, reported that 3,000 people were here in Jackson two days after Independence Day in 1854. They came with the idea of giving birth to a new political party to be called the Republican Party, and that is exactly what they did.

Each year Republicans commemorate that founding. This year the theme was Republican Firsts. In addition to Governor Bingham, also highlighted were the first woman in Congress, Jeannette Rankin, the first African-American in Congress, Hiram

Revels, the first Hispanic in Congress, Romualdo Pacheco, and the first Vietnamese of Congress, recently elected Joseph Cao. All were or are Republicans.

Thanks to our presenters, Tim Walberg, Michael Cox, Mai Vu, Jessica Blackport, Jose Paz, to Representative Paul Scott, to the keynote speaker, Republican National Committeeman Rev. Keith Butler, and to a dedicated committee, the July 6th, 2009 meeting was a success.

### Remember to vote in the 19th State Senate Special Primary Election

This is a reminder that there will be a primary election on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 to determine the Republican nominee for the General election in November.

The Republican candidates are former State Representative Mike Nofs and Sandstone Township Trustee C. James Wellman.

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

To find out where you vote, visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).

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Ray Snell  
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Marge Teske  
Jared Vickers  
Jim Videto  
Roger Warren  
Mike Way  
Jon Williams  
Hank Zavislak

# Jackson GOP News

## New Officers Elected

The Jackson GOP executive Committee recently elected two new officers at their April and July meetings. At the April meeting, Ray Snell was elected as the new Treasurer replacing Julie Francis and Scott Reese was elected at the July meeting as the new Secretary replacing Lola Peterson. We wish them success in their new positions.

## Mike Nofs endorsed by the Jackson GOP

At the April 2009 Executive Committee meeting, the Executive Committee received a recommendation from the Issues and Candidate Recruitment committee to formally endorse Mike Nofs as the Republican nominee for the 19th State Senate Special election.

“Mike Nofs will be an excellent State Senator,” said Janie Hildebrandt, chair of the Jackson County Republican Party. “His Jobs First, Jobs Now plan will resonate well in the district and the voters will respond accordingly.”

## New Members elected to the Executive Committee

Larry Lloyd and Joan Spicer were recently elected to Executive Committee to fill vacancies. Larry Lloyd is the Blood Services Director for the South Central Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross (See Member Spotlight later in this issue). Joan Spicer is currently the only Republican elected to the Leoni Township Board of Trustees and is a previous member of the Executive Committee.

## Walberg announces another run for Congress

Former Congressman Tim Walberg recently announced that he will challenge freshman Congressman Mark Schauer for the 7th Congressional District seat. In 2008, Walberg was narrowly defeated in his re-election campaign.

**Editor: Kevin Brownlow**

Contributors: Kevin Brownlow, Randy Richardville, Kevin Elsenheimer, Lola Peterson, Ray Kuzminski, Earl Poleski, Pete Langley, & Bruce Barton

# Mike Nofs for State Senate Campaign Update

## Nofs Hits the Road

Following successful campaign kick-off events in Battle Creek and Jackson, Mike and the team hit the road for a two week bus tour around the district. The tour made over 30 stops and put special emphasis on hitting the smaller, rural communities that politicians don't often hit. "I wanted to get out and see folks in those areas that usually get ignored," Nofs said. "I want to get to know all the people and areas that I hope to represent."

Despite some cool and rainy weather, hundreds of people turned out to enjoy free hot dogs and conversation with Mike and his staff during the tour. "It was a lot of fun and really enjoyed meeting and talking with so many wonderful people from across Calhoun and Jackson Counties," Nofs said.

## Nofs Testifies On Bills to Save Jobs in District

On June 10th, Mike traveled to

Lansing to testify before the Senate Finance Committee on two bills designed to bring new business to Michigan and preserve jobs here in the district. Nofs testified on Senate Bill 624 and House Bill 4930 which exempt work on new, out-of-state aircraft from sales and use tax. These bills were similar to legislation Nofs successfully sponsored in 2005 which dealt with used aircraft. The legislation is critical for Duncan Aviation in Battle Creek to help it retain over 100 jobs at a time when the aviation maintenance industry has been hit hard.

## Nofs Speaks to State Committee Attendees

The June MRP State Committee meeting was held in Battle Creek this past weekend and provided a perfect opportunity for Mike to rev up the troops and prepare them for the upcoming battles. Nofs reminded the crowd of the importance of the upcoming special election in the 19th



Senate District and the need for everyone to be involved. "All eyes are on this race," he said. "This is our chance to set the tone going into 2010 and let the Dems know that we are prepared to win."

## Volunteer Opportunities

Team Nofs has many immediate needs for volunteer opportunities. We need help making phone calls, going door to door, and doing office work. Please call 269-274-3220 to help Mike get elected.

## Public Relations Committee Report

So much to talk about! It all begun back in February with one of the most successful Lincoln Day Dinners in recent history! It also may have been the best attended in the Seventh District! A special thanks to Donna Cartmell and her committee for making it a success!

We then hosted a fundraiser for Mike Nof's 19th District Senate Race, kudos to Chairman Janie Hildebrandt for her commitment on this event.

We can now look forward with much excitement to the Reagan BBQ coming up in September. There will be entertainment and many candidates running for office that will be

attending. I encourage you to invite your neighbors, associates, friends and family to this important event. This is where attendees can listen to our candidates in person and not the short sound bites that one hears on the six o'clock news! You can visit [www.jacksonrepublicans.com](http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com) to purchase tickets.

In closing, I am always interested in hearing your views and opinions! You may contact me at [justbekuz@netzero.com](mailto:justbekuz@netzero.com).

- Ray Kuzminski

## Finance Committee Report

Earl Poleski and Ray Snell have been working with QuickBooks to improve our financial reporting and budget tracking. As part of our fundraising effort, QuickBooks will make it easier to bill members and track receivables.

We ask anyone who hasn't paid their membership for 2009 to do so as soon as possible - this will save us from having to bill you.

- Earl Poleski

## State Senate: Richardville Legislative Update



State Senator  
Randy Richardville

With a little more than 2 months to go until the start of Fiscal Year 2010, budget negotiations in Lansing are heating up. As a result of the significant

philosophical and policy differences between the two chambers and the historic nature of Michigan's budget shortfalls, I am expecting some very difficult decisions to be made.

In fact, the Senate has already taken a series of tough votes in getting their vision for the FY 2010 budget bills into the respective conference committees. By addressing the \$1.7 bil-

lion deficit with \$1.3 billion in cuts, we have been forced to dramatically reduce or eliminate funding for some very popular and worthy programs, including early childhood education and the Michigan Merit Scholarship. Even with these cuts, we are still left with a remaining hole of \$400 million that needs to be filled, either through additional cuts, federal "stimulus" dollars, or tax increases, which I do not support. The Legislature went that route in 2007 during the contentious battle over the service tax and income tax increase and it led to a government shutdown, something neither side wants to see happen this year.

As I've been telling all of my constituents in the 17th Senate District, these cuts are painful and nobody wants to

make them but our options are increasingly limited. Michigan already has the nation's worst unemployment level at 15.2 percent and increasing taxes on the state's already struggling workers and job providers would be a devastating knock-out blow. I will continue to advocate for a smaller, more efficient state government as we proceed with this difficult process and force the state to live within its means, just as you and I do at home and in your businesses.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in my district travels this summer.

-Sen. Randy Richardville

## State House: REINVIGORATE, REINVEST & REFORM



State Rep.  
Kevin Elsenheimer

Michigan House Republicans today said the state can solve its budget shortfall, invest in jobs and stimulate the economy without repeating the 2007 budget

stalemate and short-lived government shutdown that resulted in the largest tax increase in Michigan history, and they offered a plan to do just that.

Calling it the "Reinvigorate, Reinvest & Reform Plan," House Republicans unveiled a comprehensive package of government reforms, targeted budget cuts and prioritized spending that protect the most essential of government services while freeing up more than \$700 million in federal stimulus funds that can be used to invest in programs that create jobs and help pump life back into Michigan's

languishing economy.

"This is a plan that shows the budget can be solved without raising taxes - it offers tangible solutions and real savings for this and next year's budget. There is no fuzzy math, no hidden agendas or falsehoods here," said House Republican Leader Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Kewadin. "We offer this plan to majority caucuses, the governor, the State Budget office and most importantly, the taxpayers of Michigan. It's one solution to our crisis and anyone is welcome to use some or all parts of it. We have no pride of authorship, we only want to help balance the budget and put Michigan on the right track."

The caucus unveiled a three-pronged approach, involving \$1.38 billion in immediate government cost-savings; long-term government reforms; and a plan of action to use the economic stimulus dollars on the economy, not state government. The GOP "Rein-

vigorate, Reinvest & Reform Plan" will:

- Protect jobs by preventing the next Democrat tax increase;
- Freeze the number of state employees and the pending state employee pay raise;
- Cap welfare benefits after four years;
- Stimulate the economy through statewide road and bridge investments; and
- Reinvest \$50 million in small business jobs.

The more than \$1.38 billion immediate cost-saving measures outlined in detail are broken down by department and include such things as a 10-percent cut to the legislative and executive branches and state employee pay freezes.

State Representative Kevin Elsenheimer, Republican House Leader

# Member Spotlight: Larry Lloyd

By Kevin Brownlow

If you ever see signs around Jackson advertising an upcoming Red Cross blood drive, Larry Lloyd, our newest Executive Committee member, is the force behind it.

Lloyd currently is employed at the South Central Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross where he is the Blood Services and Business Preparedness Director. He also handles board development, volunteer management and legislative affairs.

While not trying to keep and maintain the blood supplies up in Jackson and Hillsdale Counties, he also serves our country in the Army Reserves.

“I served with the most decorated unit in the United States Army 187th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and fought with them for the hope of democracy in Iraq,” Lloyd said.

Lloyd grew up in Monroe County and attended Albion College obtaining a degree in Political Science and Holocaust studies. His family resides in Imlay City, MI and is married to Kimberly, his wife of four years and they

live in Jackson.

Even with all of his duties with the Red Cross, Lloyd also is active in the Jackson community. He serves on the Michigan Theatre Board of Directors and the Legislative Committee of the Great Jackson Chamber of Commerce.

Lloyd is also an active participant in Republican politics where he volunteered for numerous campaigns including John McCain, Joe Schwarz and many local and state candidates. He also served as the Vice-Chair of the Lapeer County Young Republicans and is a current Jackson County Precinct delegate.

Even before Lloyd was elected to the Executive Committee he was involved in the activities of the Jackson GOP as a member of the Issues and Candidate



Recruitment committee. He brings a great policy background to the Jackson GOP.

“I want a Republican Party that knows Jackson County is at the heart of Michigan’s economic future and addresses the issues central to our turn around – high school graduation rates, college education and a system that encourages entrepreneurship,” said Lloyd.

## 300 Club Update

The first 300 Club event was a tremendous success and we are preparing for the next one. The next 300 Club Pizza and Politics event will be on Tuesday, October 6, location to be determined. The purpose of the Club is to get Republicans elected. These events give business and community leaders an opportunity to discuss issues with their elected officials and each other. If you are interested in becoming a member or have any suggestions for potential members, please feel free to e-mail Peter Langley at [langley@comcast.net](mailto:langley@comcast.net).

## State Committee Report

The State Committee meeting was held at the McCamly Place Hotel in Battle Creek with strong representation from throughout the state.

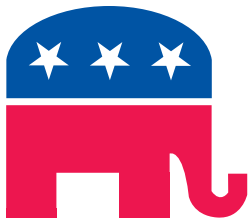
The first item of business was to change the By-laws to accommodate changes for the most part agreed on by the Policy Committee. There were 11 amendments chief among them to suspend voting privileges of any committee member who is not a financial contributor.

Other business included our new Party Chair announcing that he has obtained the financing necessary to

open 20 Victory Centers in September 2009 and keep them open until Election Day of 2010. This is huge! The first two centers are in the 19th District for the purpose of electing Mike Nofs to the 19th District Senate seat. The first is open in Battle Creek and the one in Jackson should be open by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox.

Don't forget to visit the blog:  
<http://lolapete.blogspot.com>

- Lola Peterson



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## REAGAN RANCH BBQ

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH  
4 TO 7PM

TICKETS: \$30 PER PERSON

WEIR FARMS  
11525 REYNOLDS ROAD, HORTON, MI

VISIT [WWW.JACKSONREPUBLICANS.COM](http://WWW.JACKSONREPUBLICANS.COM) TO PURCHASE TICKETS

For More Information contact Earl Poleski at (517)536-8955