

# ELEPHANT TALES

The official publication of the Jackson County Republican Party

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

Winter 2009 Edition

Please join the Jackson County Republican Party as we welcome

## Terri Lynn Land

Secretary of State

as the keynote speaker for the  
114th Annual JCRC "Back To Our Roots"  
Lincoln Day Dinner

Monday, February, 23, 2009  
Arbor Hills Country Club

Tickets - \$50 per Person/ \$75 per couple  
Tables \$400 (seats 8 & 1/2 page program ad)

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### Jackson County Republican Party elects leadership for 2009 - 2010 term.

The Jackson County Republican Party held officer elections at their December 2008 Executive Committee meeting to fill vacancies left at the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary offices.

Janie Hildebrandt was elected Chair, Peter Langley was elected Vice-Chair and Lola Peterson was elected Secretary. Granville Hayworth was elected to serve as Deputy Secretary. Treasurer Julie Francis and Deputy Treasurer Jared Vickers sought re-election to their offices.

At the January 2009 meeting, Chair Janie Hildebrandt announced the 2009-2010 Committee Chairs:

#### Public Relations

Ray Kuzminski

#### Lincoln Day Dinner

Donna Cartmell

#### Membership & Outreach

Jon Williams

#### Nominations & By-Laws

Bruce Barton

#### Issues & Candidate Recruitment

Ray Snell

#### Finance

Earl Poleski

#### Headquarters and Volunteers

Mary Berkemeier

If you have an interest or expertise in any of these areas we would certainly welcome your talents and efforts.

### It's Clean Up Time!

We want to start now so we are ready by spring to be as efficient as we can be. There are a couple of ways we want to start.

First you will notice that a part of the address on your newsletter made mandatory by the post office has to do with having correct addresses. We will now pay 42 cents for each returned item. (This is beneficial to both of us—the post office will not have to handle undeliverable mail and we will not be using resources to send it out.)

Second, sending the newsletter is not free. We try to keep our mailings going to folks who really care

Continued on Page 5

**Jackson County Republican Party  
Executive Committee**

Janie Hildebrant, Chair  
chair@jacksonrepublicans.com  
Peter Langley, Vice-Chair  
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Lola Peterson, Secretary  
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Julie Francis, Treasurer  
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Tony Bair  
Bruce Barton  
Rick Baxter  
Mary Berkemeier  
Kevin Brownlow  
Donna Cartmell  
Phil Duckham  
David Elwell  
Elizabeth Fulton  
Dean Gutekunst  
Cliff Herl  
Dan Heyns  
Marvin Huizenga  
Jack Hurula  
Rodney Johnson  
David Lutchka  
Ray Kuzminski  
Bill Mosher  
Earl Poleski  
Leland Prebble  
Mindy Reilly  
Judy Reynolds  
Randy Richardville  
Amanda Riska  
Mark Riska  
Steve Shotwell  
Ray Snell  
Geoffrey Synder  
Michael Swope  
Marge Teske  
Jim Videto  
Roger Warren  
Mike Way  
Jon Williams  
Hank Zavislak

## **Chairman's Message by Janie Hildebrant**

As your newly elected chair, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity that you have given me, and welcome you to the new year "Under the Oaks." As Jon Williams wrote for our Lincoln Day Dinner message - "The roots of the Republican Party run deep in Jackson County." We are called to go "Back to Our Roots" - where the most effective government is the government closest to the people; where equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity are for all; and where being receptive to new

ideas can bring change.

I know that we all realize after this past election year that the "change" that has been spoken of so often must come from us. We can accomplish our goals by recruiting new members, supporting our committees, attending the Lincoln Day Dinner with friends, relatives and guests and supporting our Republican party.

On February 12 we celebrate the 200th birthday of our great Republican Leader, Abraham Lincoln. Let us make him proud.

## **County Convention to be held on January 29**

**January 29 - County Tower Building - 7:30 PM**

This is the place where you can start being an official cog in the wheel of party politics. Many of us had our names on the August ballot in our quest for election as precinct delegates. This is the place where you can start to walk the walk along with the fun and frustration of talking the talk. (There is a cliché for every situation, right?)

Anyway, you can be seated as a delegate and take your first steps toward the state convention where you can take part in decision making and meet others who are as seriously concerned as you about what it takes to educate

and motivate others when it is time to vote in elections which determine the future of this great country from the township to the White House.

There's something for everyone—from our schools to our libraries to the areas covered by what some call the culture of corruption or life and death issues.

You can attend with the idea of joining in or just to observe and see what's going on and whether you are ready to jump in now or want to take it slowly. But if you're reading this, you've already taken the first step. Oh, and check out my blog! You never know what you'll find there:  
[www.lolapete.blogspot.com](http://www.lolapete.blogspot.com)

## **Michigan Republican Convention to be held February 20 & 21 in Lansing**

The purpose of this convention is to choose our representatives for the next two years including a new State Party Chair and your local 7th District officers and members plus your State Committee representative.

As explained earlier, in order to attend you need to be nominated and elected at our Jackson County Convention January 29th.

**Editor: Lola Peterson**

Creative Director: Kevin Brownlow

Contributors: Lola Peterson, Donna Cartmell, Ray Snell,

Ray Kuzminski, Mike Nofs, Randy Richardville

## Lincoln Day Dinner Committee Report

On behalf of the Lincoln Day Committee, Jon Williams wrote "Back to Our Roots." This awesome message depicts a strong party foundation. It is our feeling that it is time to rebuild and become twice as strong as in the past. We are moving forward with renewed zeal.

We need your help to reach our destination. Please support our Annual Lincoln Day Dinner Fund Raiser. Support us by purchasing a program ad, patron support line, dinner tickets or a table as a company patron.

Come and enjoy a great evening, a fabulous meal and our special featured speaker, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land. Also visit with state and local dignitaries.

See our invitation for details in this newsletter and purchase tickets by visiting our website [www.jacksonrepublicans.com](http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com). You may also get tickets from any of our committee members. Thank you in advance for your support.

- Donna Cartmell

### 2009 Lincoln Day Dinner Committee members:

Mary Berkemeier  
Kevin Brownlow  
Janie Hildebrandt  
Peter Langley  
Ray Kuzminski  
Lola Peterson,  
Leland Prebble  
Judy Reynolds  
Amanda Riska  
Marge Teske  
Jon Williams

## Public Relations Committee Report

I am honored that our leadership has selected me as the new Publicity Director. As a past 'transient' member (ie., infrequent visitor to meetings) and seeing what we all experienced in the last election, I wanted to be part of the revitalization of the Jackson GOP!

Many of our members have already responded to my 'Call to Arms' in what we have to accomplish to make us more visible in the Community. I would encourage all of you (even the members who may have previously left us and 'returned to the Wilderness' when they felt lost) to contact me with your ideas and comments in helping to make a difference in the future of Jackson's GOP!

I am assisting in updating our mail and email lists. If by chance yours is not up to date, please forward it to me at [justbekuz@netzero.com](mailto:justbekuz@netzero.com). And if you know of people who need to hear what we are about, send me their names. Success means getting the message out! Looking forward to a great Jackson GOP in 2009!

- Ray Kuzminski

## Candidate Recruitment & Issues Committee Report

We are hitting the ground running with Candidate Recruitment and Issues. We are planning to meet Monday, January 26 at 7 pm at my home. We will discuss what are the most important issues we face and start to put teams of recruiters together. Our goal will be to have a candidate for every seat available and a message that works for our candidates. In addition, we will be working on a candidate training packet. We must challenge the Dems as they have been challenging us. Call me if you want to be part of this committee.

### It's Clean Up Time! From Page 1

what is happening with the Jackson GOP. We have concluded that if you have paid dues or supported us (by buying an event ticket) in the last two years you are demonstrating that interest.

To be sure that we are not losing some of our best friends we will institute a Newsletter Only mailing list which is available for \$15 if you wish to receive it by email or \$20 if through the post office in hard copy. Remember that President Reagan

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*Editor's Note: As Chair of the State Party Candidate Recruitment Committee I want to tell you that this committee is planning to start campaign schools this spring. I have endorsed Ron Weiser as State Party Chair because of his strong support of this basic need.*

always said: It's amazing what we can accomplish if we're not concerned with who gets the credit (or words to that effect) and my mom would say many of those hands make light work

Lola  
(your secretary, state committee representative and editor—who hopes you will access our website at [www.jacksonrepublicans.com](http://www.jacksonrepublicans.com) and my blog at [www.lolapete.blogspot.com](http://www.lolapete.blogspot.com) (which is linked to the local site.)

# Back To Our Roots ...

The roots of the Republican Party run deep in Jackson County. Over 150 years ago, individuals from across the Midwest congregated here – *Under the Oaks* – to form a new political force that would fight the tyrannical expansion of slavery, exploitation of the rail road companies, and a spoiled system of out-of-control political patronage.

With a wide base our party went on to dominate state and local governments, elect Republican majorities to Congress and send more than a few Presidents to the White House. Yes, long before, Sarah Palin, Carlos Gutierrez, and Condi Rice, it was the GOP that gave the Nation its first African American Congressman (*Rep. George White*), its first African American U.S. Senator (*Hiram Revels. . . of Mississippi*), its first Hispanic Congressman (*Romualdo Pacheco*) and its first Congress “woman,” (*Rep. Janette Rankin. . . before National Suffrage*).

Inked that fateful summer day in 1856, the message of the party that attracted all races, creeds, ages, and incomes, was simple: **Government and the law must not stand in the way of the individual’s honest pursuit of happiness and freedom to prosper.**

A simple message, indeed, yet this is the message that gave us Reagan and Gingrich and the Republican Revolution. This is the foundation that gave us the Republican Party. This is the message that gave us “*our roots*.” And, so, today – *with one voice* – we ask that you join us in returning our Party to the Grand Old Party it certainly still is and shall continue to be; we ask you to stand beside us as we continue to fight for limited government, individual rights, and personal responsibility; and we ask that you add your voice as we call upon the leaders of our party to remember that this party is: **The Party of Lincoln, the Party of Reagan, the Party of all Races, Creeds, Ages and Incomes!** That this Party is the Party of God’s Gift of Freedom and that this Party – The Republican Party – holds the principles upon which this Country was founded and the path by which this Country shall continue to lead.

*-The Jackson County Republican Committee*

## State Senate: Richardville Legislative Update



State Senator  
Randy Richardville

A mere 16 months after Governor Granholm and legislative Democrats led the charge for a \$1.5 billion tax increase on Michigan residents and

businesses, the state's budget faces a combined shortfall of nearly \$1.6 billion for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2008-09 and all of Fiscal Year 2009-10. These new figures remind us, once again, that state government must live within its means and cut wasteful spending.

There is no doubt that the dramatic slowdown of the national economy

has greatly exacerbated the negative outlook of our state's already ailing economy. However, it is terribly disappointing to see the predictions of those who voted against this ill-advised tax increase, like me and many others, come true. We warned the leaders of both parties that if we raised taxes and failed to make the necessary structural changes to Michigan's fiscal arrangement, the problem would return again and again. And here we are.

As we get back to work in the Michigan Senate this month, I will continue to lead the effort to enact

economic measures aimed at jump starting Michigan's economy and helping our job providers and struggling families. We must finally account for the long-term health of this great state and dramatically restructure the way that our government does business.

I will continue to work for real reforms to help turn our economy around and be a voice for the people of Jackson County in the Michigan Senate.

-Sen. Randy Richardville

Keep up with Senator Richardville at his legislative website:  
[www.senatorrandyrichardville.com](http://www.senatorrandyrichardville.com)

## Getting to know Mike Nofs

Mike Nofs recently completed his third and final term in the Michigan House of Representatives serving the citizens of Calhoun County's 62nd District.

Rep. Nofs was first elected in 2002 upon retiring as Michigan State Police Post Commander in Battle Creek. During his distinguished 30-year career in law enforcement, Nofs also served with the Battle Creek and Marshall city police departments, the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department and at the Jonesville and Pontiac State Police posts.

Prior to being elected state representative, Nofs also served 10 years on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, five of those as Chairman, where he was instrumental in starting the Calhoun County Prescription Drug Program, establishing a new County Administrator/Controller form of management, and reigning in spending in a county budget that had

gotten out of control.

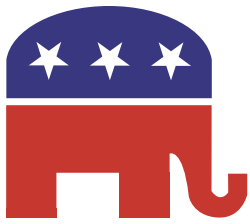
Nofs has proven to be an effective and thoughtful legislator who has earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This has translated into 21 of his bills being passed and signed into law, including key pieces of legislation like: the Michigan Telecommunications Act, the MI Cable Franchise Act, and a bill which allowed for the refinancing of school debt which saved districts over \$100 million. Mike was also a key player in the recent MI energy package of bills which addresses renewable energy and energy efficiency programs as well as improves the regulatory climate and provides strong incentives for new investment which should help companies like Consumers Energy.

Mike is a divorced father of five grown children who, as an individual and legislator, has tried his best to live out the lessons taught to him by his parents: honesty, integrity, service



above self, and giving back to the community that has supported him and his family.

Mike has expressed his interest in the 19th Senate District seat which has now been vacated by former Sen. Mark Schauer. He has already spent many hours in Jackson County getting to know the people, businesses, organizations, and issues of the birthplace of the Republican Party and looks forward to meeting and getting to know you better over the course of the next few months.



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## **Purchase your Tickets to the 2009 Lincoln Day Dinner**

We hope that you will join us at the 2009 Lincoln Day Dinner on the 23rd of February featuring Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

Yes! I/We can attend the 2009 Lincoln Day Dinner!

No. of Adult Tickets @ \$50 Total:

Couple Tickets(Two Tickets) @ \$75 Total:

Table(Seats 8 w/ 1/2 Ad) @ \$400 Total:

If you are interested in placing an ad in this year's program, please feel free to contact Lola Peterson at 517-787-3329 or secretary@jacksonrepublicans.com.

No, I/We can not attend. Please accept our donation of \$ .

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You can also purchase your tickets to the 2009 Lincoln Day Dinner at our website:

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

**Please make checks payable to: JCRC**

Please mail this form and your check to: 2019 Fourth St., Jackson, MI 49203