



AZ Legislative District 8 Republican Committee

Web: www.d8azgop.org

Jim Ward, Chairman 480- 371-7820

The Lincoln Link – February, 2012

Judy Eisenhower, Distributor

**District Meeting – February 9, 2012
6:30 PM, Social Hour - 7:00 PM Meeting – Mustang Library
10101 North 90th Street, Scottsdale**

This month's meeting will have the Presidential candidate's surrogates who will be speaking on behalf of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Congressman Ron Paul and Former Governor Mitt Romney. No word has been received for a surrogate for former Senator Rick Santorum.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER – JIM WARD

LD8 certainly has a reason to celebrate! I'm pleased to let you know, (although you may have heard already) that LD8 received numerous awards at the Chairman's Awards Dinner last weekend. Our very own Bruce and Paula Linker received an honorable mention for Best Volunteers in the state. Dr. Richard and Mrs. Judith Rutkowski won the Rookie PC of the Year Award. And, LD8 won Best District in the State, an award you can all be proud of because you made it happen.

Here was the nomination narrative that was sent in to the State. As you can see, we have accomplished so much in the past year.

"LD8 has had a phenomenal year in preparing for victory in 2012. During the year, we recruited 110 PC's for a total PC slate of 369, the highest level we have had in years and second in the entire State of Arizona. In addition, we held a very effective day long PC training seminar that on-boarded our PC's and gave them then the necessary skills to succeed.

Further, we restructured our Area and District group organization with the goal of being able to contact quickly and directly every single PC in LD8. We now have all precinct captains reporting into four district directors who report into two area directors. The Board has also begun plans to open a GOTV office for the general election by exploring possible locations and putting together an overall P&L.

As a way to be more efficient and effective in our communication, we fielded a quantitative survey to our members and as a result of that information completely redesigned our website to make it more user friendly and informative. We have held two major events; our Spring Breakfast and fundraiser and our Christmas Party. Both events broke records for attendance and money raised and we are in the process of planning a Centennial event for this Spring featuring Senator Kyl. In fact, we have increased our financial assets year on year by 80%.

We also have had a unique speakers' series over the year that included Chairman Morrissey, Congressman Schweikert, State Senator Reagan, State Representatives Kavanagh and Ugenti, Constitutional expert Shane Krauser and others.

Finally, as a result of fraud two years ago within the District, we completely rewrote our financial procedures creating stronger checks and balances and we successfully prosecuted Rex Routh the embezzler. He was sentenced as a felon and will have to pay LD8 full restitution."

Thank you for all of your hard work and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on February 9.

FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN – BARB MCMULLEN

I want to thank everyone who served as volunteers for LD 8 credentials at the County Meeting January 14th and at the State Mandatory Meeting on January 28th. We had 238 PC's represented at the County Meeting and 88 at the State Meeting, so the Credential volunteers were really given a huge task to perform. Some of the other LD's had only 10 people present. Thanks to Arthur Cooper, Ron Harnish, Boe James, Leona Johnston, Jim Nachbar, Linda Rizzo, Susan Kay Schultz, Edith Stock and Frank September for a job well done.

The membership rolls fluctuated this month as we discovered that people had moved and were no longer eligible or were no longer able to serve. Welcome to the following new Precinct Committeemen: Patrick Miller, Continental; George Andonyan, Meadow Hills and Kathie Trojanowski, Granite Mountain. Our membership as of Jan. 31st stands at 368.

In addition to the Congressional Districts being redistricted, many of our precincts will be different next year.

If you want to see what the precincts will look like geographically go to <http://www.recorder.maricopa.gov/>. Then go to ELECTIONS and under the ELECTIONS tab go to REDISTRICTING. Many of the current precincts will be merged with other precincts and we will be gaining some precincts from the current LD 7. My Precinct, Kalil, will be merged with Mustang and no longer exist. The number of PC's per precinct will be determined on March 1st. I still don't know about the petition process and whether or not we will be signing up for our old precincts or whether we will be turning in petitions for our new precincts. We will let you know as soon as we know.

SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN – BOE JAMES

Our February 9th meeting will feature authorized representatives for the Presidential campaigns. So far we have received confirmation from the Gingrich, Paul and Romney campaigns that someone will be available. As of January 28th, confirmation has not been received from the Santorum campaign. Don't mark your early

ballot and mail it in until after you have heard these presentations. Actually, my personal recommendation is to not mark your ballot until after the debates on February 22nd.

I expect that some candidates for city, county and federal offices will be present to meet and greet and collect petition signatures in the lobby.

So far, County Attorney Bill Montgomery is the only speaker confirmed for the March 8th meeting. Although District business related to PC's is a primary purpose of our meetings, attendees need not be PC's to attend. I encourage you to invite your politically aware neighbors to come hear the legislators and candidates themselves. Bring a friend or two to each meeting if you can.

By now you have probably heard or read about the recognition earned at the Chairman's Dinner the night before the Mandatory Meeting. I want to add my Congratulations to Paula Linker, Rich and Judy Rutkowski, and Jim Ward for their individual awards. I also want to thank and congratulate all of us PC's who have worked hard and made this District the Best Legislative District in the State. The fact that the state's Rookie of the Year has come from District 8 for the second year in a row is recognition not only of the hard work by Dr. Richard and Judy Rutkowski, but also reflects upon the training and coordination of Barbara McMullen, Evelyn Munn and Harold Denomme as well as the help of fellow PC's in the District. I think every PC in the District can be proud of their accomplishments

DISTRICT 8 MINUTES – DOUG LITTLE, SECRETARY

The January 12, 2012 General meeting for the District 8 Republican Committee was held at the Mustang Library in Scottsdale. Ninety-nine Precinct Committeemen were present. Fifteen guests were also in attendance.

Chairman Jim Ward called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. C. T. Wright began the meeting with an invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the November 2011 General meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Under Chairman's Business there were two items discussed by Chairman Ward. They were:

- The importance of informed voting and providing proxy instructions to proxy holders for the upcoming County and State GOP meetings.
- An update on the prosecution of Rex Routh on embezzling charges.

Chairman Ward encouraged all PCs to attend the upcoming County and State GOP meetings and to be familiar with the changes to the by-laws and the candidates running for office. He asked that each PC make an informed decision based on the merits of each issue and/or candidate. In addition, any PC sending their proxy with another PC should provide instructions on how their proxy should be voted.

Rex Routh, our former Treasurer was charged with embezzling approximately \$8,000 in funds from the District 8 treasury. He was arrested and charged last year. Kathy Littlefield and Joan Parker did a tremendous amount of work figuring out how much money was stolen and preparing the necessary documentation for the County Attorney to pursue the case. When presented with the evidence against him, Routh confessed to the crime, which is a felony under Arizona law.

On Monday, January 9th, his case was adjudicated. Based on his lack of a prior record, his sentence included two years of probation, revocation of his CPA license, community service and court ordered restitution. Based on his financial circumstances, it is unlikely we will see any funds returned to our treasury.

Dawne Ward asked if there was a possibility of recovering the penalties paid to the Secretary of State's office based on Routh's conviction. Chairman Ward agreed to investigate this, but based on prior conversations with the Secretary of State's office he was not optimistic.

First Vice Chair, Barb McMullen was recognized to give her report on membership since the last meeting. Barb stated that the membership growth in District 8 continues to be robust. People wishing to become a precinct committeeman are continually contacting her. She processed 9 applications during the week prior to Christmas. She also received four additional applications at the meeting tonight. We now have 369 PCs in District 8.

Barb briefly explained the District PC organization and how each precinct has a Captain who is responsible for contacting those PCs in the precinct. We also have Area Directors who are responsible for contacting all the Captains in their area. This organization facilitates good communication between the First Vice Chair and the rest of the District membership. John Strasser has agreed to become the new Vice Chair for Areas A-E. John replaces Doug Little, who asked to step down from the position due to the heavy work commitments he has in the coming year. Paula Linker will continue as the Vice Chair for all other Areas.

Barb also gave a brief explanation of the credentials check-in and proxy validation process that PCs could expect to encounter at the MCGOP meeting on January 14th. She also suggested some 'meeting survival' tips based on her prior experience with these meetings.

New PCs joining since the last meeting were:

- Thom Frank – Fountain Hills 9
- Lori Condon – Stonegate
- William Protexter – Sera Brisa
- Don Murray – McDonald
- Dennis and Jeanne Weiland – Mountainside
- Judith Crider – Scottsdale
- Debra Komamicki – Mirada
- Jeff Morgan – Fountain Hills 3
- Taylor Spicer – Fountain Hills 5
- Marco Almedia – San Simon
- Travis Junion – Scottsdale
- Yesenia Serrano – Fountain Hills 5
- Judson Uhre – Malapai
- Joshua Holden – Windrunner
- Cheryl Pelletier – Del Joya
- Jean Slater – Chaparral

Joan Parker was recognized to give the Treasurer's Report. Joan provided a report for both November and December 2011. As of December 31, 2011 our balance is \$10,472.72. This is \$4,1073.30 more than our balance one year ago. A copy of the report is on file with the Secretary and is available to anyone on request.

She also provided a financial summary of the proceeds from the District Christmas Party on December 13, 2011. Our net income on the party was \$678.32. We are also expecting a reimbursement from Gainey

Ranch Golf Club for \$235.29, which would bring the overall total income from the party to \$913.61. A copy of the report is on file with the Secretary and is available to anyone on request.

Joan suggested that we all give a big “thank you” and round of applause for Shirley Cordasco for all of her hard work organizing such a great Christmas party.

Second Vice Chair, Boe James was then recognized to introduce the evening’s program. In the interest of getting more informed about the activities of our elected representatives, he introduced Congressman David Schweikert, State Senator Michele Reagan, House Representative John Kavanagh and House Representative Michelle Ugenti. Each of them would speak to us regarding their plans and priorities in the coming year.

As the first to speak, Congressman Schweikert outlined the current conflict occurring between the House of Representatives, the US Senate and the White House. David stated that while the House has been doing their job by passing legislation designed to address budget issues and job creation, the US Senate has been stonewalling progress on any legislation, including several bi-partisan measures that have been passed. Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid has been unwilling to allow consideration of most of the House legislation on the floor of the Senate, effectively killing the legislation. Until we are able to get control of the Senate and the White House, it will be very difficult to make significant progress. David also outlined the seriousness of the deficit issues facing us as well as the urgent need to address out of control government spending. He also addressed the importance of repealing Obama Care and helped everyone understand the massive financial burden that will be shifted to the states starting in 2013. This shift could have serious detrimental effects on the budget and tax situations in each state. He summarized by emphasizing the serious nature of what is headed our way and that we need to act now to prevent things from getting completely out of control.

Senator Michele Reagan spoke next. She highlighted a very important project she will be working on this year, The National Debt Relief Amendment. The National Debt Relief Amendment is a nation-wide movement that is being pursued in 32 states across the country. In concept, it is very simple. The amendment would require that any increase in the debt incurred by the Federal Government of the United States would require the consent of the majority of the legislatures in the separate states. Michele has agreed to work on behalf of this proposed legislation in Arizona.

Second, she is working on a large, complex bill that would assist Arizona homeowners that are currently upside down on their home mortgages. Currently there are programs that help distressed borrowers, but there is nothing available for people that are ‘playing by the rules’ and paying their bills on time. The proposed legislation would introduce programs to assist these Arizona homeowners using private investment capital instead of public funds. Michele understands that the banking industry will fight her on this, but she feels there should be a program to help the people affected by the current market conditions in the mortgage industry.

John Kavanagh was next on the podium. Prior to his remarks, John asked Michele Reagan and Michelle Ugenti to join him on stage as he read a joint press release announcing their John Kavanagh was next on the podium. Prior to his remarks, John asked Michele Reagan and Michelle Ugenti to join him on stage as he read a joint press release announcing their candidacy for re-election in 2012.

John’s initial remarks surrounded the upcoming budget issues. While many of the short-term issues have been addressed, he pointed out that the temporary sales tax passed last year to help fund the deficit will be expiring in 2013. This expiration will result in a revenue reduction in approximately \$800 million. He feels that it is imperative for the current legislature to continue to work to reduce expenditures and to place any budget surplus in reserve as a ‘hurricane fund’. He feels this will be particularly important in 2013 and 2014. He also feels that as long as we control other spending, we will be able to fund critical programs and pay down our long-term debt.

John also outlined a number of bills he plans to introduce that reduce government regulation of small business, provide added protection to Arizona residents from uninsured motorists and address some issues with respect to judicial pensions.

Michelle Ugenti was the last member of the delegation to speak. As a freshman Representative, her big issue this year is the budget. As a member of the Appropriations Committee and chair of several sub-committees in Appropriations, she feels that she can have a great impact on the budget. She spoke of the resolve of Conservative Republicans to find an effective solution to the budget crisis and their willingness to work hard and make difficult choices to get to those solutions. Republican legislators were the ones solving the problem successfully.

Michelle also plans to introduce a version of “Caylee’s Law” designed to protect children under the age of six. The law would require parents or guardians to report any missing child under the age of six to law enforcement within 24 hours of the disappearance. She also is introducing a “Pat Tillman” license plate to support scholarship for children of military families. Finally, she plans to introduce a bill to have city election cycles coincide with the state and presidential elections on even numbered years. She feels that it would significantly increase turnouts for local elections resulting in more representative elected officials since more people would be participating in the election process.

Chairman Ward recognized several committees for their reports.

Event Committee Chair, Shirley Cordasco announced the Legislative Breakfast would be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 and the District Christmas Party would be held on Thursday, December 13, 2012. Save the Dates!

There were no reports from the Communications and Voter Registration Committees.

Chairman Ward recognized Diana Ortiz-Parsons and Stephen Veramontes to speak regarding their candidacy for 1st Vice Chair of AZ GOP and 2nd Vice Chair AZ GOP respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

TREASURER’S REPORT – JOAN PARKER

INCOME:

Contributions	\$ 160.00
Name badge	<u>15.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ <u>175.00</u>

EXPENSE:

Name badges	\$ 27.35
Supplies	214.10
Rental/meeting room	181.00
Deposit/breakfast	500.00
Deposit/holiday party	\$500.00
Less refund/2011	<u>235.29</u> <u>264.71</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	\$<u>1187.16</u>
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NET LOSS \$(1012.16)

Thank you to the following PC'S for their voluntary contributions during the month of January 2012:

Valerie Giramberk
Arthur Cooper

And, to our latest Chairman's Award PC:
Arno Naeckel

FOUNTAIN HILLS NEWS – BOE JAMES

The Fountain Hills Republican Club's next meeting on Saturday, February 18th will feature authorized representatives from the remaining Presidential campaigns.

Last month the meeting was a forum where all of the Republican candidates running for Town Council answered questions and gave a brief summary of their vision and intentions for the next 4 years. Videos of the forum can be seen at <http://fhrepublicanclub.org/>. Still photos can be seen by clicking on Photo Gallery from the home page.

The Fountain Hills Republican Club was recognized by the Arizona Republican Party's Chairman as the Best Republican Club or Organization within Arizona, while Dr. Rich Rutkowski and his wife Judy were recognized as a team as the Rookie of the Year. This is the second year in a row that the Rookie of the Year has been from District 8 and the Fountain Hills Republican Club. Congratulations to Rich and Judy Rutkowski for their achievements and thanks to all club members and LD 8 PC's who have helped them or trained them.

All Fountain Hills Republican Club meetings are open to the public. FHRC meetings are an excellent way to meet and greet elected officials, to hear more about the issues facing our state, and to learn about other political matters. They are also a great way to network with fellow Republicans in a social setting. All are welcome, especially the March 17th breakfast picnic where Sheriff Paul Babeu will be the guest speaker. Tickets are on sale for \$17 per person.

The club is planning its second trip to the Reagan and Nixon libraries (the first was a 2 day trip in 2008). The trip scheduled for Friday - Sunday, March 23-25th, will be very similar to the highly successful trip conducted by the Paradise Republican Women's Club. Additional details are at <http://fhrepublicanclub.org/librarytour.pdf> or can be obtained from Roxanne or Hank at 480 837-8665 or by e-mailing Roxanne@ArizonaTrails.com. The trip is open to all PC's and all members the Arizona Federation of Republican Women or other Republican Club, as well as their families.

The FHRC normally meets the third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the FH Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. Anyone desiring more information may visit the club's website at <http://www.fhrepublicanclub.org>, or contact Boe James, club president at FHRepublican@yahoo.com or 480 588-7612.