



GOP *County Courier*

A Newsletter for the Partners in Grassroots Government

February, 2006

2005-2006 NCRCO OFFICERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS

President: Glen Whitley

Tarrant County Commissioner, Hurst, TX

Vice President: Harry Forbes

Pike County Commissioner, Milford, PA

Secretary: Carol Holden

Hillsborough County Commissioner, Amherst, NH

Treasurer: Dennis Hollingsworth

St. Johns County Tax Collector, St. Augustine, FL

Immediate Past President: Marilyn Byers

Ashland County Commissioner, Loudonville, OH

Regional Directors

Region 1 Director: (vacant)

Region 2 Director: Paul Allen

Cortland County Commissioner, Cortland, NY

Region 3 Director: Bill Tansey

New Castle County Councilman, Wilmington, DE

Region 4 Director: Paul Senft

Polk County Commissioner, Bartow, FL

Region 5 Director: Gary White

Jefferson County Commissioner, Birmingham, AL

Region 6 Director: Tom Bennington

Dupage County Commissioner, Downers Grove, IL

Region 7 Director: Charlotte Sandvik

Cass County Commissioner, Fargo, ND

Region 8 Director: Dave Jamison

Story County Treasurer, Nevada, IA

Region 9 Director: Dave Hamlin

Dallas County District Clerk, Dallas, TX

Region 10 Director: Alynn Huffman

Gilpin County Treasurer, Central City, CO

Region 11 Director: Michael Long

Klamath County Treasurer, Klamath Falls, OR

Region 12 Director: Mike Nelson

Merced County Supervisor, Merced, CA

Message from NCRCO President Glen Whitley:

Greetings! I hope that 2006 finds each of you well. This year got off to an unusual start for my family when our local County Judge announced his retirement. I decided to throw my hat in the ring, and have since been in the midst of an election whirlwind! I do apologize that this unexpected turn of events has slowed my ability to update the NCRCO web site, and, as the primary will be March 7th, it will also prevent me from attending the Annual Legislative Conference in Washington. You will find the agenda for NCRCO's conference events in this newsletter, and I hope you will visit our newly updated website for additional information.

One of the most important projects we are currently involved with is a joint issues initiative with NACo for the next presidential election. It is our goal to ensure that the issues most important to counties will be on the minds of the presidential frontrunners in the 2008 election. As a former governor, President Bush knows the importance of working hand in hand with county officials to build support for critical issues. It is in our hands to be sure our next president also understands the significance of local issues on the national stage. Carol Holden has been of great help with this endeavor. Please contact one of us if you are interested in participating in this exciting task.

I hope you find this newsletter both interesting and informative. Best wishes for a successful Legislative Conference in March, and I hope to see each of you at the annual meeting in Chicago in August as the new Tarrant County Judge-elect!

Glen Whitley
President, NCRCO
County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Tarrant County, Texas

Special NCRCO Events Planned for Annual Legislative Conference

All events will be at the Hilton Washington & Towers,
1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC

Monday, March 6, 2006

7:00 - 8:00AM Board of Directors Meeting	Conservatory
8:00 - 9:00AM General Membership Meeting	Hemisphere
5:00 - 6:30PM Reception	Front/Mid Terrace



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE on HELPING AMERICA'S YOUTH

By: Past President Marilyn Byers

Last week I represented Ashland County at the White House Conference on Helping America's Youth. This conference, attended by parents, civic leaders, faith-based and community service providers, foundations, educators, researchers, and experts in child development, was held at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

With the focus on various problems facing America's youth and solutions shown to be successful in overcoming these challenges, morning sessions stressed the challenges. Later sessions presented youth programs that are successful.

I came home with ideas I want to explore locally as well as information about a web-based Community Guide developed by a collaboration of 9 federal departments, which will be of help to our county agencies. The new guide will assist community partnerships in their collaborative efforts to prioritize issues, identify existing resources, and fill gaps or unmet needs with effective programs. Access www.helpingamericasyouth.gov.

Successful programs presented included the use of music, art, drama, debate, and sports to connect young people with their families, schools, and communities. Several young people were present to tell their powerful stories of being strengthened by a mentor, a coach, or a teacher.

Helping America's Youth focuses on promoting healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood, improving reading skills of middle and high school students who read below grade level, and communities working in partnership with parents and families, government, schools, and community groups.

Although I returned from the conference highly inspired and with a greater commitment to Help America's Youth, I take pleasure in the fact that in Ashland County we are already doing many things right!

At the top of the list would be the school liaisons, who are funded through the Mental Health Levy which is up for renewal. The liaisons definitely link student, school, and family and have proven to be successful. Success through grants from Job and Family Services and the Ashland County Community Foundation; work of agencies such as Parenting Plus, Catholic Charities, Appleseed, Family and Children First Council; mentoring grant through the prosecutor's office; programs through Juvenile Court, OSU Extension, and Workforce Investment Act all contribute to the quality of life in Ashland County for our young people.

Add to all that the efforts of Pump House Ministries, Transformation Network, the Ashland Community Art Center, and more, such as mentoring done by coaches, church congregations and individuals. Ashland County is underway with a community partnership to help youth. In the future we need to assess our needs and find solutions as needed.

NCRCO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Sunday, July 17, 2005

- President Marilyn Byers opened the meeting at 8 a.m.
- Richard Stone delivered the invocation.
- Ray Valdes led us in the pledge.
- Everyone introduced themselves and then Jennifer Wilson, our NACo liaison made a few comments.
- Ray Valdes moved and Glen Whitley seconded the approval of the minutes as corrected.
- Treasurer Carol Holden gave the treasurer's report.
- Ray Valdes discussed our website – ncrco.org
- Regional directors made their reports.
- Dannie McConkie, Audit Committee Chair, indicated that he and the committee would look over the 2004/05 financial records and issue a report.
- Glen presented an Annual Budget for the period from July 1, 2005 thru June 30, 2006 and moved for its approval. Ray seconded the motion and it passed.
- Marilyn Byers discussed Monday's NCRCO reception.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9 a.m.



National Conference of Republican County Officials
(NCRCO)
REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR™ AWARD

Candidate Data Form

This form is intended to provide the panel of judges with information on candidates for the NCRCO “Republican County Official of the Year” Award. All Candidates, or Candidate sponsors, must submit a data form not later than April 1st of each year to the Chairperson of the NCRCO Annual Achievement Award Committee.

Candidates Name: _____ Date: _____

Current Elected Position: _____

Address: _____

Candidates Email Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

How many years has the Candidate been a paid dues member of NCRCO? _____

Has the Candidate attended at least one prior year NCRCO meeting? Yes No

When? _____ Where? _____

Please list any endorsements for the “Republican County Official of the Year” Award that the Candidate has received (You may attach up to 4 letters):

Please describe the Candidate’s Republican service experience including all elected and appointed positions: (Limited to 1000 words. May also attach up to 5 pages political resume or biography):

(Note: Use back of page or one additional typed page to complete.)

2008 Presidential Election Project
By: Commissioner Carol H. Holden, NCRCO Secretary

The 2008 Presidential Election Project has been launched to reach out to Presidential candidates on both sides of the aisle to get them to focus on issues of importance to the counties. It is a bipartisan effort so that all candidates will hear the same message and will include support of county issues as part of their campaign message.

Since candidates are already visiting New Hampshire, the first in the nation primary state, and Iowa, the first caucus state; these states were chosen to deliver the county message to candidates as they meet with county officials in NH and Iowa. NACo will expand to other states depending on the success of this project.

NACo is asking for your help to have candidates focus on the following three issues:

1. Methamphetamine Abuse

Methamphetamine abuse is devastating our communities. The next President of the United States must: Support legislation to reduce the use of meth;

- Support increased funding for meth research, treatment, enforcement, education and cleanup; and
- Work to stop importation of meth into the United States from Mexico and other countries.

2. Medicaid

The cost of Medicaid is a huge problem for counties in NH and across the country. The next President of the United States must:

- Increase the federal government share of Medicaid costs;
- Oppose all cuts to Medicaid programs; and
- Support Medicaid reform that maintains the federal government's primary responsibility for providing health care to our most vulnerable citizens.

3. Federal - County Partnership

In the past a good working relationship existed between the federal government and the counties. The counties are not a special interest group, but rather counties want to partners with the federal government. How can this partnership be restored?

These are the county issues before us. Let us all work together to stay on the county message and have the issues advanced in all 2008 Presidential campaigns.

For additional information on these issues, please contact NACo or check the NACo Web site: www.naco.org.



**Linebarger Goggan
Blair & Sampson, LLP**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

***Providing Professional Collection Solutions
to Governmental Entities for Over 25 Years***

<p><u>COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION & LEGAL SERVICES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Delinquent Tax Collection ServicesCourt Fees & Fines Collection ProgramParking Violations Collection ProgramCollection Programs for Other Government ReceivablesAppraisal District RepresentationProperty Value Appeals	<p><u>UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AWARDS</u></p> <p><i>2004 Award for Outstanding Achievement</i> Collection of Delinquent Fees and Fines City of Chicago</p> <p><i>2001 Award for Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships</i> Successful Collection Efforts Achieved with the City of Dallas Since 1983</p>
---	--

The attorney responsible for the contents of this advertisement is F. Duane Force.
Firm's principal office: Austin, Texas

**For more information about our law firm call (800) 262-7229 and ask for Client Services
or visit our Web site at www.publicans.com.**

Arizona • California • Colorado • Florida • Illinois • Ohio • Pennsylvania • Tennessee • Texas • Virginia

NCRCO Membership Meeting Sunday, July 17, 2005

Marilyn Byers opened the meeting at 11:10 am.

Glen Whitley gave the invocation and Dennis Hollingsworth led us in the pledge.

A membership roll was sent around and everyone was asked to be sure and check their email address.

Jennifer Wilson, our NACo liaison, made a few comments. She stressed the importance of participating on one of the various steering committees.

Gary White offered to try to get sponsors for future Board of Directors and Membership meetings and for the Reception.

Marilyn Byers mentioned Seasongood & Mayer as one of our major sponsors and Glen Whitley announced that Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Samson, LLP had agreed to be a major sponsor for 2005 & 2006.

Marilyn Byers recognized the past presidents and award winners. The 2005 National Conference of Republican Officials of the Year Award winners were: the Honorable Camille Cain, Weber County Commissioner, Utah; Honorable Jeff Dossett, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana; Honorable Kent Evans, Count Commissioner, Dona Ana County, New Mexico; and the Honorable Larry Inman, County Commissioner, Grand Traverse County, Michigan.

Marilyn Byers mentioned the website.

Dick Cecil made a motion and James Healy seconded to approve the membership meeting minutes from DC. The motion passed.

Don Stapley, candidate for 2nd vice-president, spoke to the group.

Ken Mayfield encouraged people to run next year so that a majority of the Executive Committee would be republicans.

Carol Holden gave the treasurer report. She announced that we had over 300 members. She reported on the activity thru June 30, 2005. She then indicated that the budget cycle would be from July 1st thru June 30th.

Dannie McConkie reported that the audit committee would give its report at the conference in DC.

The budget was then approved.

Bill Hansell came in and offered his comments.

Ray Valdes, chairman of the nominating committee, then presented the slate of officers for the next year. The slate was elected. Ray then presented the nominations for the regional directors all but for region 1. The nominations were approved.

Ray then discussed the new website.

Marilyn Byers reminded everyone of the reception from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.
The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

MEMBERSHIP REPLY

YES, I want to be an active participant in the National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) and help support the programs that will benefit all local elected and appointed Republicans. Enclosed is my membership fee of \$20.

Please complete the following information. Send your reply along with your \$20 check, payable to:

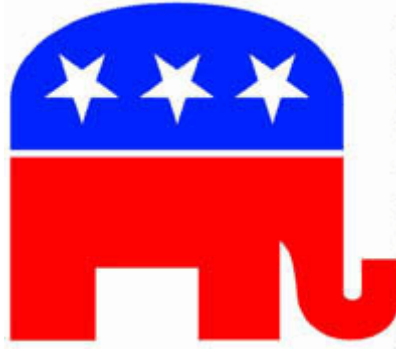
The National Conference of Republican County Officials

NCRCO TREASURER, DENNIS W. HOLLINGSWORTH, C.F.C., P.O. BOX 9001 ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-9001

Name	_____	Title	_____
Address	_____	County	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	Office Phone #	_____
Email Address	_____	Fax #	_____
		Home or Cell Phone #	_____

PLEASE RENEW YOUR \$20.00 MEMBERSHIP TODAY OR BECOME A NEW MEMBER! DUES ARE PAID ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS. ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO ENLIST NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR ORGANIZATION.

Page 5



Did you know ...

... National County Government Week is April 23 -29th? This year's theme is "Protecting Our Communities," focusing on the ways counties protect their residents from the impact of natural disaster, terrorist attacks, crime and drug abuse.

... 232 Republicans in the U.S. House, 15 Republican U.S. Senators, 22 Republican Governors and thousands of Republican County Officials are up for re-election this year? Don't forget to get out and vote!

###