



# **GOP** *County Courier*

A Newsletter for the Partners in Grassroots Government

February, 2009

## **2008-2009 OFFICERS**



**President: Dennis Hollingsworth**  
Tax Collector, St. Johns County, Florida



**Vice President: Michael Long**  
Klamath County Treasurer, Klamath Falls, OR



**Secretary: Cynthia Johnson**  
Pondera County Commissioner  
Conrad, Montana



**Treasurer: Benjamin Owens**  
McLean County Board Member, District 10  
Illinois



**Immediate Past President: Carol Holden**  
Hillsborough County Commissioner  
Goffstown, New Hampshire

## **2008-2009 Regional Directors**



**Region 1: William "Bill" Doherty**  
Barnstable County Commissioner  
Massachusetts



**Region 2: A. Alan Seidman**  
12th Legislative District  
New York



## **President's Report February 2009**

As of this writing, President Barack Hussein Obama has been sworn in as 44th President of the United States of America and the 111th Congress has been seated. The 43rd president, George W. Bush and his wife Laura have returned to Texas, and Republicans are officially in the minority position.

Although we now find ourselves in a position many would consider a political disadvantage, I consider ours a position of strength. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

So let's make the most of our time in the minority and out of the glaring spotlight of biased media and the constant barrage of liberal criticism. We must rally behind our Republican leaders in Washington and offer assistance and support at every opportunity. We must encourage them with our words and deeds to face the waves of opposition with strong, conservative principles and common-sense alternatives. We must embolden them when the inevitable vitriol of racism and intolerance are hurled at them. We must utilize the network we have in counties throughout America to not only deliver the messages of the public to Washington, but also to share



**Region 3: Richard C. "Dick" Cecil**  
Past President/Lifetime Member  
Delaware



**Region 4: Ray Valdes**  
Seminole County Tax Collector  
Florida



**Region 5: Don Wallace**  
Tuscaloosa County  
Commissioner  
Alabama

**Region 6: Vacant**



**Region 7: Scott Wagner**  
Cass County Commissioner  
North Dakota



**Region 8: Stephen H. Holt**  
Jasper County Tax Collector  
Missouri



**Region 9: Suzanne Henderson**  
Tarrant County Clerk  
Texas



**Region 10: Jack Hilbert**  
Douglas County Commissioner  
Colorado



**Region 11: Al Switzer**  
Klamath County Commissioner



**Region 12: Michael Jeanes**  
Superior Court Clerk  
Maricopa County, AZ

our party's elected leaders' plans with the grassroots populace of the nation.

You are the components, the ingredients, for the future Republican Party. It starts with all of you – we must work together, from our Main Streets and City Halls to our Capitol's malls.

The clock toward real change is ticking, and Republicans can begin to regain control of the House and Senate in 2010 and thereby curtailing the plans of liberal counterparts. Let's ignite the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington next month with passion and zeal for our conservative beliefs. We may be in the minority in our nation's capital, but our conservative principles of freedom, liberty, security and free enterprise are in the majority in the hearts and minds of our nation's people.

Respectfully yours,

Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC  
Tax Collector, St. Johns County FL

### Dennis Hollingsworth & Spouse Attend Holiday Reception at the White House



*Pictured from left: Dennis Hollingsworth, First Lady Laura Bush, President George W. Bush and Jan Hollingsworth.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – St. Johns County Tax Collector Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC, and his wife Jan were guests of President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the White House this holiday season.

The Hollingsworths attended a holiday reception at the White House December 4, 2008, where they had the honor to speak with the Bushes and have a commemorative photo taken.

## 2008 – 2009 COMMITTEES

### **Audit Committee**

#### **Chair: Carol Holden**

David J. Ferdinand, II (ID)

Gary Moore (KY)

Debbi McGinnis (MO)

Nila B. Dayton (UT)

### **Budget & Finance Committee**

#### **Chair: Ben Owens (IL)**

Members to be announced.

### **Hospitality Committee**

#### **Chair: Michael Long (OR)**

Carol Holden

Dennis Hollingsworth

Will coordinate efforts with Ryan Yates, NACo  
Liaison

### **Issues Committee**

#### **Chair: Ray Valdes (FL)**

Don Wallace

Scott Wagner

### **Membership Committee**

#### **Chair: Ben Owens (IL)**

Stephen Holt

Dick Cecil

### **Nominating Committee**

#### **Chair: Carol Holden**

Dennis Hollingsworth

Ray Valdes

Scott Wagner (ND)

Nancy Weeks, KS

The theme for the event, "A Red, White and Blue Christmas," was reflected in decorations throughout the East Wing of the presidential home. Mr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth enjoyed the splendor and elegance of the event, from "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Corps Band to the crèche, made in Italy in the 18th century and displayed in the East Room every holiday season since 1967. Another favorite was the white chocolate and gingerbread replica of the White House, complete with First Dogs Barney and Miss Beazley landing on the roof.

Although sons Colby and Shelby, both age 13, did not attend the reception, they joined their parents at the White House later that weekend day for a private tour, particularly enjoying Barney and Miss Beazley scurrying in the halls. The Hollingsworths also had an opportunity to take a guided tour of The Capitol building and visit the new Visitor Information Center that opened the day before they arrived.

In mid-January, the Hollingsworths received the photo with the President and First Lady, and memories of their visit returned.

"This experience was beyond anything we could have imagined," Hollingsworth said. "We are honored and humbled to have been invited to share with the Bushes their last Christmas in the White House."

Hollingsworth mused that he and his wife were a bit shy when they waited for their turn with the President, unsure of what to say. 'Don't worry about it,' Hollingsworth recalled a Marine saying, 'The President will take care of that.' Upon introductions, Mrs. Hollingsworth was swept into a bear hug by the President, who pumped Hollingsworth's arm in greeting and chatted with them quite cordially. "It was like he had always known us," Hollingsworth said.

After taking another day to tour Washington, the Hollingsworths returned home.

## REPORTS FROM OUR OFFICERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS

### **Region 1:** Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Director Bill Dohert reports, "The good news is that in my home town of Harwich, the Republican candidate for the County Assembly of Delegates defeated the Democratic incumbent. I believe that was the only case of an incumbent Democrat being defeated in Massachusetts or, according to CNN, in the country."

### **Region 4:** Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

Director Ray Valdes, Seminole County, FL.: The General Election of 2008 was a tough one for the Southeastern states of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina in Region 4. Relatively speaking, all three states stood up fairly well against a national storm. Georgia held onto a key US Senate seat, while Florida lost two Republican US House seats to Democrats, but took back one US House seat that was previously held by a Democrat. When the dust settled, we still had 15 Republicans out of 25 members in Congress.

Meanwhile, not a single incumbent Republican lost a seat in either the State House, or State Senate and we gained some Republican county elected officials.

Of particular note, for anyone that knows Florida, Broward County normally comes out of each General Election cycle with a 300,000+ Democratic majority for every candidate of that Party on the ballot. In November, 2008, for the first time in memory, a Republican was elected as County Sheriff.

Our Republican Party of Florida, and all local county parties, already have their feet on the ground, the technology gurus reviewing data to prepare us to defend our current elected officials, and are aggressively seeking opportunities with good new candidates for 2010.

### **Region 5:** Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky.

County Commissioner Don Wallace, Northport, Alabama:

*Mr. Wallace mailed several hundred of these letters to Republican elected officials in his District. "Anyone can feel free to download the letter and use it as a template if they would like to send it to their respective districts. I look forward to seeing many of you in Washington at the NACo Legislative Conference and at the 2009 NACo Annual Conference, which will be held in District 5 in Nashville, TN."*

It is a privilege to serve as Region Director for District 5 of Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky, along with other fine elected Republicans at the county level across our nation. It is also a historic time in America, with many challenges at home and abroad. We have a new President, empowered by a more liberal Congress, that are seeking to expand social programs, pet spending projects, and add nearly \$2 TRILLION to the national debt in their first year.

More than ever, our GOP leadership needs to unite across America with new ideas, based on sound Republican principles, to restore confidence in our party. One way we can do that is for county leaders from District 5 to join the NCRCO, our affiliate organization of the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo is where we share ideas, discuss policy that affects our counties, and share input with Congressional and Administrative leaders in Washington. On Taxes, Free Markets, Immigration, Education and the Environment, we need to let our voice be heard.

Please ask commissioners and other locally elected Republicans to join with us in the NCRCO and help us develop Progressive Ideas – Rooted in Conservative Values! Only by working together to offer solid, pro-growth alternatives to the failed liberal policies that ever expand government and muzzle our economy, can we reclaim our positions of leadership for a new generation of Americans.

### **Region 10:** Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Director Jack Hilbert reports, "Good news from Region 10! For the first time in 14 years Colorado Republicans picked up seats in the State House. In doing so this year the biggest win came when a totally new face on the scene defeated the heir apparent Democrat Majority Leader even though we were out spent 8 to 1. It can

happen as long as we stay on message and work hard."

**Region 11:** Secretary Cynthia Johnson's report from Montana, the 90-day, once every two years, legislative session began early in January. Montana was one of the very few states in which Republicans regained the majority in the Senate and maintained a 50-50 split in the House. Local elected officials are closely balanced between the parties also – giving rise to Montana's reputation of being a very independent voting population. Montana did vote for John McCain but the momentum of the national election did not bode well for the top state elected positions. Montana's highest ranking republican, other than the solitary Congressman, Denny Rehberg, is a Public Service Commissioner. The state GOP has also experienced some transition in leadership as they begin to rebuild and refocus on the next general election. Strong efforts have already begun in candidate recruitment from the county level to the State Legislature.

Term limits are once again a hot issue in Montana. Republicans led the charge to create term limits in the 90's and are experiencing the pain of lack of continuity and institutional knowledge. Luckily, County and City elected officials are not affected by term limits and Montana's longest serving county commissioner, Bill Tande, was recently elected to his sixth six year term as a Republican in Daniels County.

**Region 12:** Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Director Michael Jeanes reports, "In Arizona...The November election resulted in an increase in the Republican majority in both the state Senate and the House! In addition, our Democrat governor has left the state to work in the Obama administration. Our new governor is Republican Jan Brewer. In addition to six years as Secretary of State and many years in leadership in the state legislature, Governor Brewer served on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. She understands County issues! Arizona Republicans are proud to now have full control of both the executive and legislative branches of government."

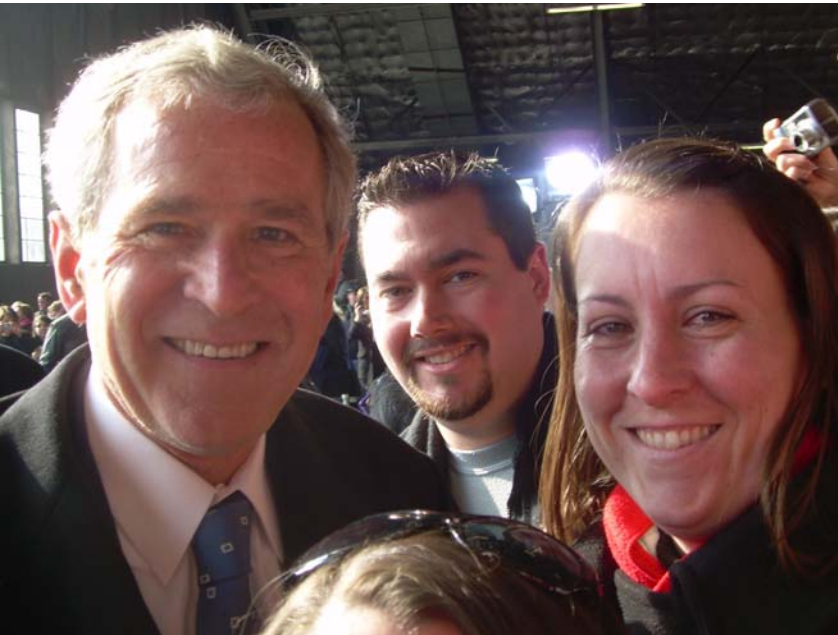
**Treasurer Benjamin Owens, McLean County, IL, reports:** The balance in our account as of January 31, 2009, is \$5,240.76. The following are NCRCO sponsors, secured by President Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC: Mr. Eddie Creamer, \$1,500.00; The PARC Group, \$500.00; MFB Financial Inc. DBA: The Bailey Group, \$250.00.

# "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant..."



## Former President Bush Departs Andrews

Former President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush give a final wave to the crowd of more than 1,000 people gathered at Andrews AFB, MD, there to wish them a fond farewell prior to their final departure aboard a VC-25. The President and Mrs. Bush are headed to Dallas, Tx, where they will reside after eight years of living in the White House. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Craig Clapper) *Compliments of [www.andrews.af.mil](http://www.andrews.af.mil).*



Pictured from left, former president George W. Bush, NACO liaison Ryan Yates and Ryan's wife, Catherine. The Yates attended the farewell ceremony held at Andrews Air Force Base January 20, 2009.

***INTERESTED IN BECOMING ACTIVE  
IN NCRCO????  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS***

**Visit our website for more information!!!**

**[www.ncrco.org](http://www.ncrco.org)**



### **2009 Legislative Conference**

March 7-11, 2009

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

Washington, D.C.

Please click on the following link to register and find out more!

<http://www.naco.org/>

The following NCRCO activities will take place during the conference on Monday March 9, also at the Marriott Wardman.

11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

NCRCO Board of Directors Meeting

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NCRCO Membership Meeting

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

NCRCO Reception

Vice President Michael Long and NACo Liaison Ryan Yates are coordinating the activities for the conference. If you are interested in assisting with the preparations, contact Michael Long at [mlong@co.klamath.or.us](mailto:mlong@co.klamath.or.us).

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!!**

“Who is the 2009 Republican County Official of the Year?”

The deadline draws near for nominations on the NCRCO “Candidate Data Form” application to be submitted for the 2009 “Republican County Official of the Year” award. All candidates, or candidate sponsors, must submit the correct “Candidate Data Form” that can be downloaded from the NCRCO website, not later than April 1st and submitted to Ray Valdes, Seminole County Tax Collector by either email or US mail.

Ray is the current Chairman of the NCRCO Annual Achievement Award Committee. His email address is [republicanray@yahoo.com](mailto:republicanray@yahoo.com), or his mailing address is PO Box 630, Sanford, FL 32772-0630.

The Republican County Official of the Year Candidate Data Form was revised on October 20, 2008 to include on the backside the requirements that must accompany the data form for it to be considered by the panel of independent judges across the country. The applicant must meet every requirement listed on the back of the form. This is a paraphrased outline from the NCRCO Constitution / By-Laws, Article XII.

Please take the time to follow the necessary steps to sponsor, or submit a nomination application on any individual you believe worthy of the “Republican County Official of the Year” award.

**Proposed Bylaw changes submitted by Ray Valdes, Issues Committee Chairman**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO). ~~It is~~ Once constituted as an affiliate organization of the Republican National Committee (RNC), it is now an independent political entity with Caucus status within the National Association of Counties (NACo), in accordance with the NCRCO By-Laws.

**ARTICLE VI  
DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** The President shall preside at all meetings and activities of NCRCO, set meeting times and prepare agendas, ~~work closely~~ communicate with the Republican National Committee (RNC) to ~~develop~~ exchange information on cooperative programs and policies, ~~attend~~ visit Republican National Committee (RNC) Meetings, attend other Republican meetings as approved by the Board of Directors, work with the RNC and NACo on mutual goals and projects, direct the preparation of social events at NCRCO functions, make replacement appointments to the NCRCO Board of Directors, appoint Committees and Committee Chairs as required and as deemed necessary, communicate regularly with the Board of Directors and membership, coordinate the public presentation of NCRCO positions, work with the Budget and Finance Committee to develop the Annual Budget and to seek funding support for the organization, and approve disbursement of any and all NCRCO funds, without exception, within the limits of the Budget approved by the NCRCO membership.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Membership Committee shall assist the Treasurer with maintenance of current NCRCO membership records. Coordinating with the RNC, NACo, State Republican Parties, and the NCRCO Regional Directors, the Committee shall solicit new memberships for the organization from all of the Republican County Officials throughout the United States, compile a current NCRCO membership prospectus, and distribute same to prospective new members.

**ARTICLE XI  
AFFILIATION**

*REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE:*

~~The RNC recognizes NCRCO as an Allied Organization of the RNC. As such the RNC provides support to NCRCO, as mutually agreeable. The President shall represent NCRCO at the Summer and Winter Meetings of the RNC and at other Republican Meetings as approved by the Board of Directors.~~

NCRCO shall support and promote the goals and ideals of the Republican National Committee (RNC). The RNC does not provide financial support to NCRCO in any manner.

NCRCO members shall be urged to participate as members of NACo Standing Committees and to participate in other NACo activities as a means of helping to shape NACo policy and procedures.

**ARTICLE XIV  
ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION / BY LAWS**

These By Laws were adopted by the NCRCO membership in July, 1993 at the NCRCO Business Meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah; amended at the NCRCO Business Meeting held in Houston, Texas, July, 1996; amended at the NCRCO Business Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, July, 1998; ~~and~~ amended at the NCRCO Business Meeting held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 13, 2003, and amended at the NCRCO Business Meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee on July \_\_\_\_\_, 2009, all during NACo Annual Conferences.





## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

### 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

Mail to Benjamin Owens  
NCRCO Treasurer  
McLean County Board Member, District 10  
115 E. Washington Street,  
P.O. Box 2400  
Bloomington, IL 61702-2400

Renewal

New Member

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

**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

*Contributions to the National Conference of Republican County Officials are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.*

*Authorized and paid for by the National Conference of Republican County Officials.*