

GOP

MAY, 2015

County Courier



NCRCO 2014/2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Cindy Bobbitt
Grant County Commissioner
Oklahoma

Vice President: Don Rosier
Jefferson County Commissioner
Colorado

Secretary: Beryl Amedee
Terrebonne Parrish Councilwoman
Louisiana

Treasurer: Joe Briggs
Cascade County Commissioner
Montana

Immed. Past President: Christian Leinbach
County of Berks Commissioner
Pennsylvania

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1: Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh
Merrimack County Commissioner, NH

Region 2: Terence Farrell
Chester County Commissioner, PA

Region 3: Jason Williams
Gaston County Commissioner, NC

Region 4: Ray Valdes
Seminole County Tax Collector, FL

Region 5: Gary Moore
Boone County Judge/Executive, KY

Region 6: Kent Ward
Hamilton County Surveyor, IN

Region 7: Dave Sellie
Burke County Commissioner, ND

Region 8: Robert Boyd
Riley County Commissioner, KS

Region 9: Jon Burrows
Bell County Judge, TX

Region 10: Nancy N. Sharpe
Arapahoe County Commissioner, CO

Region 11: Greg Chilcott
Ravalli County Commissioner, MT

Region 12: Chad A. Roche, AZ
No Longer in Elected Office

President's Letter



Greetings NCRCO Members,

First I want to express to you, the members of this organization, my great appreciation for the cooperation which you have given me as your National Conference of Republican County Officials President. Your support has not been passive or mere approval; it has been spontaneous, active and enthusiastic! You have been loyal and unswerving in your support. Many of you have taken time away from your other responsibilities to render services. Many of you have willingly volunteered and/or accepted difficult committee duties to improve the NCRCO organization. I am grateful!

My challenge to the membership one year ago was to make the commitment to carry on the NCRCO ideals and objectives to ensure a greater influence of our association. Have we been successful? Yes, in my opinion we definitely have. Is our work done? No, absolutely not!

NCRCO together with NACo have been marching forward with issues surrounding the "Waters of the United States". Over one million comments have been sent to the Federal Registry. In February, NCRCO member and NACo First Vice President Sallie Clark testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Sallie did an excellent job and we thank her. However, this issue is far from over; consequently you and I must continue to have persuasive dialog with our leaders in congress on this important issue.

In February during the NCRCO Business meeting in Washington D.C. membership engaged in lively debate on several other significant topics. The Issues Committee led the discussion on the Keystone pipeline, immigration reform, energy independence and the new EPA clean air regulations, just to name a few.

As a result, it seems clear that NCRCO will continue to be a strong, vibrant factor on the national policy scene. Not just because of any particular personalities who may share center stage now or in the future; but because you and I share a common belief in the basic concepts that local government is meant to work for people, not enslave them, and that our contributions to local, county, state and federal government can benefit all Americans.

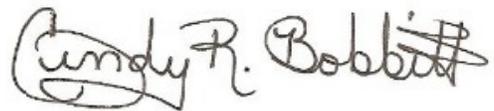
(Continued on Page 2)

You and I working in our own communities, in our own ways, continue to shape ideals, mold decisions, and directly affect the attitudes with which all Americans view their responsibilities in today's world. Please plan to join me July 10-13 in Charlotte, North Carolina where we can continue to exchange dialog on issues that are important to you and your county. Arrangements for the NCRCO business meeting and reception for Sunday evening at a "special location" are set.

Again, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all my fellow members as I plan to step back into the membership ranks in July. I trust you will give to my successor that same degree of cooperation you have given me. You are a grand group of men and women and to each of you I owe my affection, gratitude and respect.

God bless you and together let's carry on with NCRCO ideals and objectives.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy R. Bobbitt, NCRCO President



We are the
National Conference of Republican County Officials
"NCRCO"



Visit us – on Facebook!



Sign up for Facebook today and connect
with other NCRCO members.

Visit our – Web Page: www.NCRCO.org



Thank you to the volunteers of our 2015 Audit Committee:

Ray Valdes – Chair
Michael Jeanes
Steve Holt
Mike McGinley

Annual Meeting and Reception

By Don Rosier, Vice President and Hospitality Chair
Jefferson County Commissioner, CO

The National Conference of Republican County Officials is pleased to announce the Annual Meeting and Reception will be held on **Sunday, July 12 at the NASCAR Hall of Fame in the Legends Room.**

Business Meeting 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. followed by the Reception 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Officer reports and committee reports will be presented and approved as needed followed by region director reports at the business meeting.

United States Senator Thomas Tillis (North Carolina) will be the Keynote Speaker at the reception. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and our sponsor Devnet Incorporated will once again host an open bar.

Adjacent to the Charlotte Convention Center, the 150,000-square-foot NASCAR Hall of Fame is an interactive, entertainment attraction honoring the history and heritage of NASCAR. The high-tech venue, designed to educate and entertain race fans and non-fans alike, opened May 11, 2010 and includes artifacts, interactive exhibits, and a 278-person state-of-the-art theater. Also on the property is the NASCAR Hall of Fame Gear Shop. The goal of the facility is to honor NASCAR icons and create an enduring tribute to the drivers, crew members, team owners and others that have impacted the sport in the past, present and future. Visit <http://www.nascarhall.com> to find out more about the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

The objective of the National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) is to further the standards and ideals of the Republican Party through regular contact and association with Republican County Officials from throughout the United States.

To assist in building a grassroots Republican network that will help elect more Republicans at the local, state, and national levels.

To define, clarify, pronounce, and disseminate official positions on legislative and administrative ideas or proposals supported by Republican County Officials, elected or appointed.

To provide the opportunity for local Republican County Officials to unite in their efforts to inform Federal Officials and administrators of the needs of local government and the impact of Federal programs, from a Republican viewpoint.

To provide a forum from which to participate in, comment on, or consider official policies of the National Association of Counties (NACo).

We look forward to seeing you there!



**2016 Local, County, State, and Federal elections
will be here before you know it. Stay Involved.**

NCRCO Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2015

By Beryl Amedee, NCRCO Secretary – 2014/15
Terrebonne Parrish Councilwoman, LA

The National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) business meeting was held Monday, February 23, 2015 at 5:00pm in Roosevelt Room #1 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC.

President Cindy Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 5:15pm and welcomed everyone.

Immediate Past President Christian Leinbach opened in prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jon Burrows, Region 9 Director.

Secretary Beryl Amedee called roll. The following were present at roll call:

Officers:

President Cindy Bobbitt (OK)
Vice President Don Rosier (CO)
Secretary Beryl Amedee (LA)
Treasurer Joe Briggs (MT)
Immediate Past President Christian Leinbach (PA)

Regional Directors

Region 1, Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (NH)
Region 2, Terence Farrell (PA)
Region 5, Gary Moore (KY)
Region 6, Kent Ward (IN)
Region 9, Jon Burrows (TX)
Region 10, Nancy Sharpe (CO)

Other members and guests.

Allen, Darius	Cecil, Dick	Haste, Jeff	Ownby, Jeffrey
Arlett, Robert	Clark, Sallie	Hisey, Dennis	Patnoe, Geoff
Aspland-Walsh, Bronwyn	Cole, George	Hollingsworth, Dennis	Paul, Dave
Amedee, Beryl	Conway, Sean	Humphrey, Ed	Pawlowski, Jan
Becker, John	Cruikshank, Gordon	Jeanes, Michael	Philbeck, Tracey
Bobbitt, Cindy	Davie, Doug	Klein, Ken	Roerber, J.Mark
Bobbitt, Mike	Degear, Dan	Lee, Gary	Rosier, Donald
Boyd, Paul	Earle, Donald	Leinbach, Christian	Sharpe, Nancy
Briggs, Joe	Eilert, Ed	Linke, Merrit	Smith, Richard
Burrows, Jon	Farrell, Terence	Martin, John	Steen, Norm
Bushner, Trent	Flaig, Cathy	Mixon, Lanny	Szabo, Libby
Campanie, John	Gaiter, Lew	Moore, Gary	Ward, Kenton
Carpenter, Joe	Hansen, Erik	Mussare, Anthony	

Secretary Amedee presented the minutes from the last meeting held July 14, 2014 in New Orleans, LA, and moved for approval. Second by Don Rosier. Motion carried.

Treasurer Briggs distributed copies of the financial report. Motion to approve by Dick Cecil (DE), second by Michael Jeanes (AZ).

Discussion and Possible Action –

Issues Committee Joe Briggs, Gary Moore, Christian Leinbach

Current Issue adopted by NCRCO in 2014 – Review

- Waters of the United States

Issues for consideration by NCRCO in 2015

- Keystone Pipeline
- Energy Independence
- Immigration Reform
- National Defense and Nuclear Defense Posture
- New EPA Clean Air Regulation
- Marketplace Fairness Act

Discussion of other issues:

- Marketplace Fairness Act – Humphry (OH), Joe Carpenter (NC), Sean Conway (CO), Jeff Haste (PA), and Christian Leinbach (PA) made comments and brought up concerns about how this would apply to county vs state sales tax.
- Repatriation: taxing offshore dollars at a lower rate to encourage inclusion
- Flood Insurance Risk executive order – Beryl Amedee (LA), Sean Conway (CA)
- Affordable Care Act (Cadillac Tax) – Joe Carpenter (NC), Christian Leinbach (PA), Jeff Haste (PA)

Secretary's Report (Continued from Page 4)

The Issues Comm. will study these further and make a recommendation concerning NCRCO's official stand on each.

Committee Reports and District Reports – Presented in January Newsletter

Updates

- Hospitality: Don Rosier
- Membership: Beryl Amedee. (Note: Before this meeting, we had 47 members. 7 additional members joined this evening, bringing our total to 54.)
- Nominating: Christian Leinbach

Old Business: none

New Business: Tracy Philbeck (NC)--Gaston County, "In God We Trust" effort

Adjourn: Motion by Christian Leinbach, second by Terence Farrell (PA). Meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.

Respectfully submitted by Beryl Amedee, NCRCO Secretary

Treasurer's Report

By Joe Briggs, NCRCO Treasurer and Chair, Issues Committee

Cascade County Commissioner, MT

NCRCO Treasurer Report as of April 10, 2015

Greetings from the "keeper of the cookie jar"! Things continue to go well for NCRCO and our financial position is no exception to that trend. Both former members and new members have discovered the convenience of paying their dues on-line at NCRCO.org rather than mailing a check or paying at the conferences. There is no fee attached for you utilizing this on line service but you can certainly continue to pay by mail or in person if you prefer. Regardless of how you pay we very much appreciate your support.

Your membership Dues in NCRCO is \$30 annually and is based on the calendar year. I will be sending out a reminder to those of you who have not yet paid for 2015 in the next few days. I will also be sending out an email to those who are current 2015 members showing the data we have on file for you. I would appreciate very much if you would provide me with any updates to your contact information when you receive that email.

Additionally, I will also be sending out to all current and past members a pdf version of our membership brochure. It would be my hope that you might pass that on to another Republican County Official who has yet to join NCRCO. There is indeed strength in numbers and our existing members should be our best recruiters. Please assist us in growing NCRCO by inviting your fellow Republican County Officials to join.

Returning our attention to the financial situation of your organization, we have no outstanding bills and one sponsorship receivable currently outstanding. A simplified version of the financials is below. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions on the finances at ncrco@briggscom.com.

Simplified Financial Report for FY 2014-2015

Description	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
Starting Balance as of August 1, 2014			\$9,898.75
Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,898.75
2015 Dues	\$2,460.00		\$12,358.75
Reception guest Income	\$60.00		\$12,418.75
Donations	\$2.00		\$12,420.75
FY 2014-2015 Expenses through April 9, 2015		\$4,732.56	\$7,688.19
Balance as of April 9, 2015			\$7,688.19
Paid Membership is currently 82			

Submitted for the Newsletter on April 10, 2015.



Membership Committee News

By Beryl Amedee, NCRCO Secretary and Chair, Membership Committee
Terrebonne Parrish Councilwoman, LA

IS IT THE CANDY?

NCRCO Membership has been increasing steadily. Of course we are all excited about it, but what has spurred the increase? One of the activities your Membership Committee came up with over a year ago was to be sure we have a promotional table set up in a prominent location at each NACo Conference. The table boasts a beautiful patriotic NCRCO banner featuring a majestic eagle, and other Republican-themed items such as a red tablecloth and elephant figurines. We use simple hospitality in the form of “giveaways” to entice conference attendees to stop by and visit the table. Some popular items offered have been recent copies of Focus on the Family’s “Citizen” magazine, DVD’s entitled “The Role of Pastors & Christians in Civil Government” by David Barton, and pocket-sized copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, printed by The Heritage Foundation. But it seems that the item drawing the most traffic to the table has been candy! Yes, a simple little basket containing a variety of candy (mostly chocolate) has made our table one of the most popular—maybe THE most popular—among all the display tables!



So, can we attribute the rise in NCRCO membership to chocolate candy? Well, as funny as that would be, I believe the real reason for the increase is the members themselves. Every time you speak with your fellow public servants and mention something NCRCO is doing, and especially each time you extend an invitation to them to join us at an NCRCO event, YOU have made a difference! It’s the hospitality you share and the enthusiasm you exhibit that ignites the desire in others to come and participate. So please keep up the good work!

Nomination Committee Chairman

Christian Y. Leinbach, Immediate Past President NCRCO, Berks County Commissioner, PA

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce a slate of individuals for the nomination of NCRCO Officers and Region Directors at the Business Meeting on July 12, 2015 to serve for fiscal year 2015/16. NCRCO members may nominate from the floor any member for any position at the meeting.

OFFICERS:

President: Don Rosier – Jefferson County, CO Commissioner

Vice President: Jon Burrows – Bell County, TX Judge

Treasurer: Joe Briggs – Cascade County, MT Commissioner (serving 2nd year of a 2 year term) (NOT up for election)

Secretary: Beryl Amedee – Terrebonne County, LA Councilwoman (being elected for a 2 year term by NCRCO By-Laws)

DIRECTORS:

Region 1 – Commissioner Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh – Merrimack County, NH (running for 2nd year)

Region 2 – Commissioner Jeff Haste – Dauphin County, PA (first term)

Region 3 – Commissioner Jason Williams – Gaston County, NC (running for 2nd year)

Region 4 – Tax Collector Ray Valdes – Seminole County, FL (running for 2nd year)

Region 5 – Probate Clerk Paul Boyd – Shelby County, TN (first term)

Region 6 – Commissioner Gary Lee – Union County, OH (first term)

Region 7 – OPEN

Region 8 – Commissioner Robert Boyd, Kansas – Riley County, KS (running for 2nd year)

Region 9 – Commissioner Darry Stacy – Cleveland County, OK (running for 2nd year)

Region 10 – Commissioner Nancy Sharpe – Arapahoe County, CO (running for 2nd year)

Region 11 – Commissioner Gordon Cruickshank – Valley County, ID (first term)

Region 12 – Assessor Peter Van Nortwick – Clark County, WA (first term)

Want to know more about NCRCO?

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Opportunity for participation on a national Republican organization committee, to serve as a Committee Chair, a multi-state Regional Director, or as an Officer.
- If your performance in county office has been exemplary, to become a candidate for our annual “Republican County Official of the Year” achievement award.
- To network with Republican peers from throughout the United States at our semi-annual meetings.
- To receive the informative semi-annual NCRCO newsletters “GOP Courier”.
- Our NCRCO elected President is invited to attend the Republican National Committee (RNC) meetings.
- No charge for attendance to our twice a year social receptions with wonderful hors d’oeuvres and special national scene Republican speakers.
- Historically our NCRCO President is scheduled to address the Republican National Convention (in non-prime time) when it convenes.
- To communicate with our liaison in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (in the West Wing).
- An NCRCO membership card, logo lapel pin, Conference identity ribbons, and voting rights at all called meetings.
- We have face-to-face contact at our semi-annual meetings, which are forums for discussion, and consistently communicate through newsletters, emails, telephone conference calls, and other viable means.
- NCRCO members exchange information with their counterparts across the country, learn diverse and differing methodologies, and open their thought process to new techniques.
- Receive “Talking Points” on national Republican initiatives, describing their effect, and updates on behind-the-scenes Republican news.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

Membership Reply Form

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 \$30 for my 2015 dues. Please complete the following information and send your reply form along with your check for \$30 payable to:

The National Conference of Republican County Officials
NCRCO Treasurer, Joe Briggs, 5900 Western Drive, Great Falls MT 59404

NAME	_____	Title	_____
Address	_____	County	_____
	_____	Office Phone	_____
City, ST, Zip	_____	Fax Number	_____
Email	_____	Home/Cell	_____

Contributions to the National Conference of Republican County Officials are not deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

You can process and pay for your initial Application and Renewal at our website: www.NCRCO.org.



Issues Committee Report

By Judge Gary Moore, Issues Committee
Boone County Judge/Executive, KY

The following is a brief update on “Waters of the United States” and “Transportation”. The ISSUES COMMITTEE is bringing these topics forward for considered and possible adoption at the Annual NCRCO Business meeting in July.

Waters of the U.S. — What Comes Next

The public comment period on the proposed rule closed Nov. 14, 2014 and the agencies received more than 1 million comments. EPA and the Corps of Engineers will review the comments and plan to release a final rule by late spring or early summer.

The focus now moves to Capitol Hill, where lawmakers plan to introduce and debate legislation to stop the proposed rule in the coming months.

In a recent budget debate in the Senate, Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) offered a non-binding amendment on the proposed waters of the U.S. rule, which passed by a vote of 59 – 40. While this amendment is non-binding and would not stop implementation of the proposed rule, it is a sign of the Senate’s willingness to take up future legislation to withdraw the proposed rule.

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), is drafting a bill that would require the agencies to restart the rulemaking process. It would also specify the types of ditches that would be exempt, based on EPA’s statements that it is not the agency’s intent to regulate certain types of ditches. It would specify that farming, public safety and other types of ditches would not be considered “jurisdictional” — subject to federal oversight — under the proposed rule.

However, the political climate in the Senate is uncertain, and it is important that any waters of the U.S. bill have Democratic co-sponsors. In the meantime, the earliest the Senate could vote on a bill is June. If the proposed rule is finalized before the Senate vote, it makes it harder to move pieces of legislation out of the chambers.

Since the rule’s publication, NACo has expressed concerns about its scope and called for it to be withdrawn until further analysis and more in-depth consultation with state and local officials could be completed.

MAP-21 Reauthorization and the Highway Trust Fund

On July 31, 2014, Congress passed a short-term patch that kept the Highway Trust Fund solvent and extended the current federal surface transportation law--Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)--through May of 2015.

Once again, MAP-21 is set to expire and the Highway Trust Fund is expected to run out of money at the end of May 2015. The authorizing committees in Congress are working behind the scenes to draft legislation but the biggest hurdle remains how to pay for a long-term bill. Senate leaders continue to say that all funding options are on the table, including a gas tax increase. In the House, leadership appears to be leaning toward some sort of combination of options (not all of which are clear at this time) that will likely include repatriation. Depending on the tax rate and whether or not participation would be voluntary, repatriation proposals are estimated to produce between \$126.5 billion and \$238 billion in revenue for the Highway Trust Fund. Paired with gas tax revenue (at the current 18.4 cent rate), repatriation would allow the Highway Trust Fund to support a five or six year bill at current or increased funding levels.

While repatriation has been favored by the White House and many members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, it would only be a temporary solution for the Highway Trust Fund, providing just a few years of funding and leaving the trust fund in another dire state once the revenue was spent. Regardless of the funding approach, it does not appear that Congress will be prepared to fix the trust fund and get a long-term reauthorization bill completed before the May deadline. What’s most likely to happen next is another short-term patch (length TBD) to allow the tax-writing committees and leadership to resolve the funding issue and for the authorizing committees to conclude their work.

Region 1 Report

By Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, Merrimack County Commissioners, NH

New England: The mud season in NH has started and with it the initial charge of the Presidential candidates. Surprisingly a chink in the Democratic solidarity was the arrival of Martin O'Malley from Maryland. So even the Dems have doubts about the invincible nature of Hilary Clinton.

On our side we've seen Ted Cruz and Rand Paul as new faces, along with some contenders from past campaigns. In any case, here we are looking to play an important and helpful role in getting us back in the White House. Stay tuned! The rest of the area has been quiet as all of us face the recovery needed to offset the cost of the tough winter.



Region 3 Report

By Jason Williams, Gaston County Commissioner, NC

In Maryland, it didn't take long for newly elected Republican Governor, Larry Hogan to make an impact. With the assistance of former state Sen. Bobby Neall, Hogan presented a budget-balancing plan in about six weeks! Coming off years of mass spending by Governor O'Mally, Hogan came in and made tough decisions that went a long way toward eliminating Maryland's chronic and widening structural gap between revenues and spending. His ultimate goal is to reduce massive spending in an effort to reduce the tax burden on the citizens of Maryland. His tough, but realistic approach has been music to the ears of conservatives in a heavily Democratic state.

Gaston County, NC has never been a stranger to controversy. Recently the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to install our national motto, In God We Trust, on the courthouse. As you can imagine, this was met with fabricated outrage by the secularist and liberals across the region. Threats of lawsuits came in from groups like the Freedom from Religion Foundation and others. Ultimately, the measure passed and the motto is up for all to see as a beacon for one of the founding principles of this great nation! Hopefully more counties will adopt similar measures.



Finally, we also send our support to the General Assembly in Indiana and their efforts to protect religious freedom in that state. If we can't stand up for religious liberty, what can we stand up for?

Region 4 Report

By Ray Valdes, Seminole County Tax Collector, FL

Florida: The State of Florida is still regarded as the biggest prize swing state in national elections. It is a conundrum that registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans in the state by over 450,000, yet Republicans hold an approximate 2/3rd majority in both the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives. The Governor, all three State Cabinet members and 65% of our Congressional Delegation are Republican.

Our key to victory began in 1987 as we sought to target and turn out our Republican base supporters, while finding a message that resonated with good public office candidates to “Independents” (chasing those non-party affiliation individuals that actually vote).

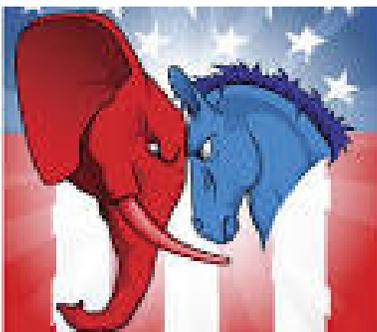
The year 1992 was the first time we elected a Republican Florida Senate President since Reconstruction in 1868, and it was 1998 for the first time in over 100 years that we had a Republican Governor joined by a majority Republican Legislature and Cabinet. When Jeb Bush was reelected Governor in 2002 for a second term, it was the first time Floridians had reelected a Republican Governor in state history. In 2003, Florida’s 16th Lt. Governor, former Florida Senate President Toni Jennings, was the first woman to hold that office in our state.

In 2015-16 Florida scores another milestone by becoming a state with two Republican Primary Candidates for the Office of United States President. Our hope is that when the dust settles in the Spring or Summer of 2016, one of these two will be the National Republican Candidate for President.

Georgia: The Republican Party of Georgia was founded in 1854, 14 years before one was established in Florida. Known for many years for conservative Democrats at both the State and National level, such as Georgia US Senator Sam Nunn, Republicans currently have a majority of the members in the Georgia General Assembly and in their Congressional Delegation. They have a Republican Governor and hold every statewide Constitutional Office.

Though the city of Atlanta has a heavy concentration of registered Democrats, Republicans and non-party voters elsewhere around the state, along with conservative Democrats that vote for Republican candidates and issues, more than balance the scales.

One of the Georgia Party’s priority challenges is to continue to utilize advanced available technology to ensure the continued success of the conservative movement and the longevity of the Republican Party in the state.



NCRCO REGIONS

- Region 1: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
- Region 2: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
- Region 3: Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
- Region 4: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
- Region 5: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
- Region 6: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
- Region 7: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin
- Region 8: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
- Region 9: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
- Region 10: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
- Region 11: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington
- Region 12: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Region 6 Report

By Kent Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor, IN

The snow is finally over, and Indiana has a new Republican Party Chairman, Jeff Cardwell. He is a real estate professional, entrepreneur and radio personality who founded “World In Need”, a not-for-profit charitable organization. Cardwell replaces Tim Berry, a former State Treasurer and prior Allen County, Indiana official who held the position for two years.

The Indiana Legislature is still in Session which will end in May. This Session is known as the long Session. The short Session begins in January and ends in March. These sessions alternate every other year. The Indiana Legislature is dominated by Republicans in both the Senate and House as well as Governor and all but one of the elected state offices.

This year’s election cycle concentrates on the cities and towns. All municipalities will hold elections this year during which voters will decide the fate of mayors, city and town councilmen, as well as clerk treasurers throughout the state.



Region 8 Report

By Robert Boyd, Riley County Commissioner, KS

Counties lead the effort for efficient, effective and economical government amid the challenges facing all governments at all levels. Here in Region 8, most of the counties are led by Republican elected officials with vision and conservative economic philosophies. The states of Region 8 continue to grow economically, but the growth can only be described as moderate at best. While our Counties deal with Federal and State imposed mandates and reduced assistance, they still provide needed community services and strategic planning for a prosperous future.

Iowa is gearing up for their August 8th Straw Poll in Boone. Iowans take their responsibility of providing the first political presidential test seriously and Iowa Republicans are eager for the contest.

Kansas Counties in the Fort Riley region have set the standard for the Department of the Army Listening Tours which present to the military the communities commitment to our national defense. Fort Riley is vital to both the national defense and the region, and that is the message local leaders convey to the Army leadership.

Missouri Republicans endure the liberal tactics of personnel attacks on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives. The latest was a Republican legislator being described as a “Nazi thug”. Missouri is working through the aftermath of the Ferguson shooting accompanied by hysterics of the media and liberals. It will take time to heal such wounds and Republicans are providing the leadership in the process.

Nebraska continues to prosper under Republican Leadership. Unemployment is among the lowest in the nation; job growth continues to exceed 2014 levels; and county populations continue to grow, albeit very modestly.

Region 9 Report

By Jon Burrows, Bell County Judge, TX

Arkansas: The further changing of the political tide was evident in Arkansas after its great mid-term election. Republican Tom Cotton defeated incumbent Democrat Mark Pryor for the US Senate seat by 57% to 39%. Republican Asa Hutchinson beat the Democrat opponent by 56% to 41%, taking the office of Governor away from the Democrats. Another indication of the change was in District 21, where a State Senate seat in a district that had been solid Democrat was won by Republican John Cooper.

Arkansas lost a revered statesman on April 1st, when former Republican U.S. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt died at age 92. Representative Hammerschmidt left a great legacy in Arkansas and was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the rise of today's Republican Party in Arkansas.

Representative Hammerschmidt ran for Congress in 1966, taking office in 1967. He spent 26 years in office. His constituents re-elected him campaign after campaign, including one in 1974, when he defeated a young Bill Clinton.

Louisiana: Just ten years ago, Democrats held all statewide elected offices and had majorities in both legislatures. With the defeat of Democrat incumbent US Senator Mary Landrieu in November (by Republican Bill Cassidy – 56% to 44%), Republicans have majorities in both houses of the legislature, on the Public Service Commission, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Louisiana Supreme Court, and all but one congressional seat. They now control every statewide elected office.

Louisiana GOP Chairman Roger Villere was quoted as saying, "Democrats have become so out of touch with the people of Louisiana that they have forced themselves into irrelevance. There is a new dawn on the horizon and Louisiana's future is looking brighter than ever before." Chairman Villere continued, "In 1979 only 3% of the state's registered voters were Republican. Today, nearly 30% of registered voters are members of the GOP, almost a 10-fold increase."

Oklahoma: The Southern Republican Leadership Conference (SRLC) will be hosted in Oklahoma City on May 21st-23rd. Seven national leaders and potential 2016 presidential candidates have confirmed to attend.

Confirmed to attend are former Florida Governor Jeb Bush; American author and retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson; former Hewlett-Packard CEO and 2010 candidate for senator from California, Carly Fiorina; Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal; former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum; business magnate Donald Trump; and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

The "Energy Capital of America" event promises to be one of the largest attending political events of the year and will end with a 2016 Presidential Straw Poll. More information is available on the SRLC website at www.srlc.gop.

The Republican Party continues to be a powerhouse in Oklahoma. Again, in 2014 Republicans won every Congressional seat and expanded its majority in the Senate from 36-12 to 40-8. The Republican Party kept its majority in the House at 72-29. Republican voter registration is at an all-time high.

Texas: March 7th ushered in a new Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, Tom Mechler. Chairman Mechler had served as Party Treasurer under retiring Chairman Stephen Munisteri.

After nearly five years on the job, Chairman Munisteri had taken a party in debt, appointed future-chairman Tom Mechler as Treasurer, and not only led the party out of debt but left it with close to \$1,000,000 on hand. A great deal of thanks is owed to Chairman Munisteri, as he joins the campaign of Senator Rand Paul as a senior advisor in Senator Paul's 2016 Presidential Campaign.

Chairman Mechler brings more than 30 years of political experience to the Party and states he will continue to fight for Texas's conservative principles against any efforts from national Democrats to turn Texas Blue.

In the last three election cycles, the Republican Party of Texas has set a new record each cycle for the total number of Republicans elected across the state and/or switched parties. There are now 1,190 more Republicans in office in 2015 than in 2010. In total, there are 3,660 Republican officeholders around the state representing approximately 67% of all offices in Texas.

After the elections of 2014, Texas again considers itself among the strongest Republican states in the nation. Every statewide elected office and majorities in the state senate, state house and on the state board of education are held by Republicans.

All Region 9 states were Red States in the presidential elections of 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. Based on the 2014 election results, expectations are high for each state's Republican Party in the elections of 2016.

ANNUAL MEETING – CHARLOTTE, NC

Guest Speaker – Thom Tillis – NCRCO Meeting

The National Conference of Republican County Officials is pleased to announce the Annual Meeting and Reception will be held on **Sunday, July 12, 2015 at the NASCAR Hall of Fame** in the Legends Room, adjacent from the Charlotte Convention Center.

Business Meeting 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
followed by the
Reception 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



Officer reports and committee reports will be presented and approved as needed followed by region director reports at the business meeting.

United States Senator Thom Tillis (North Carolina) will be the Keynote Speaker at the reception. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and Devnet Incorporated will once again host an open bar.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Thom Tillis is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. After stints in New Orleans and Nashville, he settled in Cornelius, NC, a northern suburb of Charlotte, in 1998.

In 2003, he successfully ran for the Cornelius Town Commission. Following his two-year term as commissioner, Tillis successfully ran for the NC General Assembly in 2006. Tillis ran unopposed in three subsequent reelection bids, in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Thom was Campaign Chairman for the NC House Republican Caucus in 2010. In that year's elections, Republicans won a majority in the House for the first time in almost 20 years. The House Republican Caucus selected Tillis to be the next Speaker. On January 26, 2011 he became only the fifth Republican Speaker of the House in NC history!

In May 2011, *Governing* magazine recognized Thom's potential and rise to the top of the NC House and named Tillis one of 17 "GOP Legislators to Watch." With Speaker Tillis at the helm, in the 2012 elections, the GOP added nine seats to its majority, winning 77 of the 120 House seats. Following this historic feat, Tillis was unanimously re-elected Speaker of the NC House by the Republican Caucus in January 2013.

The proactive, business like attitude of Speaker Tillis was a welcome addition to the NC General Assembly where a massive overhaul was needed after decades of Democrat control. The state house, overseen by Tillis, enacted a complete restructuring of the state's tax code, including a reduction of personal and business income taxes, elimination of the estate tax, and a cap on the gas tax. It has also passed legislation to sunset existing state rules and regulations and limit new regulations to a ten year duration, unless renewed by the state government.

In keeping with an earlier promise that he would serve only four terms in the state house, Tillis announced that he would not run for re-election to the legislature again. Instead, he chose to run for U.S. Senate in the 2014 election against first-term incumbent Democrat Kay Hagan. He successfully defeated Senator Hagan in one of the biggest upsets of the 2014 election season.

In his few short months in office, he has already drawn the attention and ire of liberal groups and media such as Jon Stewart, the New York Times, and MSNBC. Frankly, this tells me all I need to know.

Picture Gallery

Legislative Conference 2015



Joe Briggs
At the
Reception
Desk



Our Booth
Display



Cory Gardner

Past Presidents
in Attendance



Sallie Clark, Cory Gardner, Jeff Varner



Judge Moore



Conference
Views



Thank you to
our Sponsor

DEVNET
INCORPORATED

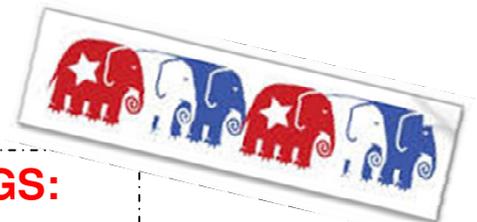
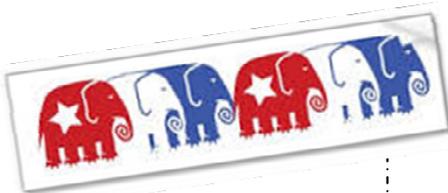
DEVNET is a privately held company that was founded in 1997 on the principles of providing integrated software and hardware solutions to local government. DEVNET has provided dynamic and flexible Appraisal, Assessment, Collections and Online Inquiry solutions to local government for over 15 years.

The company was established by a group of software developers and local government specialists with the goal of providing quality services at a reasonable price. The DEVNET staff is comprised of former county government officials and some of the best developers in the business. These individuals have an intimate working knowledge of local government, which has allowed DEVNET to better serve its clients' needs.

The DEVNET products, services and customer experiences have proven positive as DEVNET currently serves a total of over 90 jurisdictions spanning across Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The full DEVNET Edge® suite of solutions includes CAMA, Field Data Collection, Property Tax Assessment Administration, Personal Property, Mobile Homes, Special Assessments, Tax Calculation, Tax Billing & Collection, Distribution, Delinquent Tax Processing, Tax Claims, Permitting and Zoning, Records Management, wEdge e-government with shopping cart and subscriber features, GIS integration and Tax Bill & Notice Printing & Mailing Services.

The DEVNET Edge® solution values and collects revenues for over 3.5 million parcels each year. This number has grown exponentially over the years as DEVNET continues to gain new markets across the US. We are a stable company that is poised to expand our offering of solutions to new markets as we are establishing our presence as a nationwide provider.



FUTURE NCRCO MEETINGS:

**February 20-24, 2016 –
Washington DC**

July 22-25, 2016 – Long Beach, CA

**✓ MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

