The 2018 Annual NACo Conference and the NCRCO Annual meeting are upon us and it hardly seems possible. Wasn’t it just a few weeks ago that we gathered in DC for the legislative conference? Yet, the 2017 meeting in Columbus where I was installed as your President must have been a year ago since my final meeting as your President is less than two weeks away.

It must be that adage that time flies when you are having fun!

It has been an honor to serve you as an officer over the last few years and I look forward to continuing to help this organization grow and strengthen.

It is easy to serve an organization in which you believe and that coupled with the talented group of individuals that I now have the privilege to call friends have made my involvement in the NCRCO a tremendous experience and privilege.

I highly recommend it to each and every one of you. It may be cliché but the strength of our organization lies in the quality of our members. Each of our members is already a distinguished leader back home so we have a wealth of talent to lean on when you are an officer of the NCRCO.

I especially want to thank a few of those who have been of particular assistance to me in my tenure as a NCRCO Officer: Past Presidents that I have served with such as Cindy Bobbitt, Christian Leinbach, and Jon Burrows, my current officers, VP Darry Stacy, Secretary J.D. Clark and of course Treasurer Mike McGinley. Without Mike having had a moment of weakness, I might still be the Treasurer rather than having been able to serve you as VP and President. Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank Past Presidents Ray Valdes and Cindy Johnson who conspired to rope me in at my first NCRCO meeting. My sincere thanks to all of you.

(Continued on page 2)
Enough of memory lane, it is time to talk about why the NCRCO is so important. Later in this newsletter you will find a partial list of the NCRCO members who serve in a NACO leadership role. This list makes the point that organization and leadership matter in NACo and underscores one of the many reasons why we need to have a strong Republican organization within NACo.

*Just as “Nature abhors a vacuum and seeks to fill it”, public policy also will be filled by whoever is active and vocal.*

For NACo policy to contain a balance between our point of view and our friends across the aisle, we must be engaged and effectively put forth the Republican philosophy in the steering committees and throughout the NACo governance structure. NCRCO helps us to be more effective in this effort. Given the effectiveness of NACo advocacy efforts in DC it is critical that we not surrender the policy development role to our opponents.

When I first became involved in NACo I was told by members of Congress that NACo had limited credibility because it was a Democrat organization. Some would argue the veracity of that statement but it was unfortunately a widely held belief in a business where perception is reality. Such a perception damages both NACo’s effectiveness and the ability of individual counties to be heard.

This perception has been changing and the NCRCO is an important element in establishing and maintaining balance within the NACo platform and policy advocacy efforts. Your individual policy efforts magnified through your activity in NCRCO is the best way to make the needs of your county heard in DC.

*Please think about joining NCRCO if you are not already a member and if you are a member, become more active, we need your intellect and your talents.*

I hope that you can join us in Nashville for the NCRCO business meeting and election of officers on the evening of Saturday July 14th in the Canal D, Convention Center, Delta Mezzanine, Level M from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Additionally, we will have a reception on Sunday night July 15th off site at the famous Wild Horse Saloon in the downtown music district from 6 to 7:30 pm. Buses will be running a circuit that evening from the conference hotel to downtown Nashville.

The Wild Horse is located at 120 2nd Ave North quite close to the drop off/pick up point for the NACo buses. Members will be admitted to the reception free and may purchase an additional guest pass for $20 either on line at NACO.org or at the business meeting on Saturday.

NCRCO will supply appetizers as well as some non-alcoholic beverages. A full service bar will also be available as well as live music and line dancing classes.

*This event is definitely NOT a business meeting, this will be pure Nashville! If you wear a tie, it best be a bolo.*

http://wildhorsesaloon.com
Joe Briggs called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
Darry Stacy offered an invocation.
Jon Burrows led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Minutes from the July 22, 2017, meeting were prepared and presented by J.D. Clark. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve minutes.
Financial reports were prepared by Mike McGinley. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the financial reports.
Committee appointments were presented by Joe Briggs and were approved through motion, second, and unanimous vote. Appointments were as follows:

- **Audit:**
  - Cindy Bobbitt (OK), Chair
  - Dick Cecil (DE)
  - Gary Moore (KY)

- **Budget and Finance:**
  - Mike McGinley (MT), Chair
  - Darry Stacy (OK)
  - J.D. Clark (TX)

- **Hospitality:**
  - Darry Stacy (OK), Chair
  - Cindy Bobbitt (OK)
  - Mike McGinley (MT)

- **Issues:**
  - Gary Moore (KY), Chair
  - Jason Brinkley (TX)
  - Nancy Sharpe (CO)
  - J. D. Clark (TX)
  - Chip LaMarca (FL)

- **Membership:**
  - Jon Burrows (TX), Chair
  - Darry Stacy (OK)
  - Chris Bowen (MS)
  - Rob Arlett (DE)

- **Newsletter:**
  - Joe Briggs (MT), Chair
  - Cindy Bobbitt (OK)

- **Nominating:**
  - Jon Burrows (TX), Chair
  - Joe Briggs (MT)
  - Christian Leinbach (PA)
  - Kent Ward (IL)
  - Mike Brown (KS)

(Continued on Page 4)
NCRCO Past Presidents who were in attendance were recognized.

-Candidate for NACo 2nd VP (and NCRCO member) Gary Moore addressed the meeting about his work and candidacy.

Rob Arlett provided information about a local right-to-work ordinance that had been proposed in his county.

-Meeting was adjourned.

A limited number of the NCRCO “Challenge Coins” are still available for purchase by our members for the low price of only $10.

Order yours online at NCRCO.org or purchase it at the upcoming NCRCO event.

These high quality metal coins make great Presentation gifts, display pieces and attention grabbers at events.

Just like a famous credit card, Never leave home without your NCRCO Challenge Coin!

Do you know other who should be a member of NCRCO or someone who you would like to receive an electronic copy of our newsletters?

If so, please send us their email address!

Send the request to jbriggs@briggscom.com
We had 50 people renew membership before or during the Legislative Conference in March. I will have name tags ready for these members before the Wild Horse Saloon reception in Nashville this next month.

Any others who want to join NCRCO, please take time to pay on-line or send a check for $30 to me at the address below. Your early efforts on payment would be appreciated.

On-line payment address is http://ncrco.org or can be done on the home page of our website. NCRCO.org

My address is:
NCRCO Treasurer
c/o Mike McGinley
521 S. Dakota St
Dillon MT 59725

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Challenge Coin Project

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<td>NCRCO Challenge Coin</td>
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Purchase online at NCRCO.org or at the July 14th Business meeting.
Immediate Past President Jon Burrows

Clear Sailing Ahead?

I recently attended an Economic Update by a Texas A&M University Economics Professor, that he entitled “Clear Sailing Ahead”. I’ve heard him speak several times over the last 10 years or so, but as I head toward retirement on December 31st, I found myself more intently interested in what he said this time. It was very positive. However, while I trust his opinion, I did some checking on my own. (I did like the fact that the only source for news he trusted was the Wall Street Journal.)

He always likes to have a visual to represent the gist of his presentation. This year it was a ship heading to sea, with the caption: “Clear Sailing Ahead”. He noted that most of the information he was basing his talk on seldom made it to Main Stream News. As an example, he pointed out that the Stock Market Boomed, the GDP Growth Improved and Unemployment was at a 17 Year Low. Sounded good, but I thought I’d do some checking. Here’s what I found:

Organizing data into the following Columns:

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<th>LAST YEAR 6/15/17</th>
<th>TRUMP START 1/31/17</th>
<th>OBAMA END 12/31/16</th>
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<td>6,165</td>
<td>5,825</td>
<td>5,614</td>
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<td>UNEMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>5/31/18 3.8%</td>
<td>12/13/16 4.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lowest Rate on Bureau of Labor Chart 2008-2018

Well, I’m no Cindy Bobbitt, but assuming Yahoo Finance is accurate, even I can surmise that we seem to be on the right economic track. (That’s a good thing when you begin retirement.)

As I ride off into the sunset (or fly into Maui), NCRCO has been a great, fun experience. Thanks to the leaders of the past and the leaders to come. As I look around NACo, I see NCRCO members at all levels of leadership. I encourage NCRCO members to lend their conservative, fiscally sound, and creative talents to NACo. It will just make NACo, and NCRCO, better.

Thanks and Aloha. -- Jon

And Mahalo for your service Jon— Joe
As we head into the heat of the summer of this 2018 midterm cycle, pundits, politicos, and voters alike should take note of the past, present, and future differences of polls, polling, and predictions. So I have been researching data-driven predictions and survey research to see where the Republican candidates as well as the Republican Party stand in the 2018 midterm elections.

Now stay with me here, as the first part of this article is technical; however, the end result will be okay!

Here is a model I found that can be used to forecast the 2018 midterm elections:
- Calculate an estimate of the national environment today
- Compute a weighted average of all congressional generic ballot polls taken
- Compute the average change in post-2016 special elections
  - Repeat this for every day of every year going back to 1992
- Predict the national environment on November 6, 2018
  - Use generic ballot polling averages at this point in the past cycles
  - Combine with past average special election swing
  - To generate a prediction of the national vote on election day
- Use a variety of inputs to predict results at the district level
  - Create a baseline projections by combining: the partisan lean of a district, the previous candidate's margin in the district and Candidate-specific variables
  - Repeat this process 50,000 times

Here is Cindy Bobbitt’s model to forecast the 2018 midterm elections:
- Calculate national environment according to current news sources
  - No fake-news allowed
- Compute past election predictions vs. past election results (Remember, Trump won)
- Repeat this every day going back to 1992 as well as going forward until election day
- Predict in reality which candidate(s) are good solid conservatives
  - Promote these candidates
  - Combine with past (& present) ethic values
  - To generate a prediction of the national vote on election day
- Use a variety of transparent spheres of any material with refractive index
  - One that brings parallel rays of light to a rough focus
  - Focus on the inside sphere, so the brightest accessible point is on its surface directly
  - This is a “crystal ball-specific” variable
  - Repeat this process 50,000 times

This is another exciting election year. I bid you “good luck” as you and everyone else forecasts the 2018 midterm elections. As for me, I have seriously been evaluating the two models presented; however, I am going to go with my crystal ball forecast.

More seriously, it takes hard work and all our attention to elect conservative candidates that the country and our counties want and need. The results will be seen November 7, 2018! **GO VOTE!**
In Idaho the Primary was interesting to say the least.

In our Governor’s race we saw 3 “R’s” running, the current Lt. Governor Little, current Congressman Labrador and an outsider Mr. Alquist. The Lt. Governor prevailed and will be in the General Election for the Republican’s.

On the Democratic side a prior School Councilman, A.J. Balukof who ran four years ago ran again spending quite a bit of his own money only to be defeated by an Idaho State Representative, Paulette Jordan. She is a Native American and soundly defeated her opponent. We will see Ms. Jordan face off against Mr. Little.

Idaho will see our first ever Female Lt. Governor after the General Election as two Ladies prevailed in both the Republican and Democrat Primary Elections.

Congressman Labrador’s open seat in Congress brought out a flurry of candidates for the Republicans. Seven candidates filed for this seat.

In State Legislative races during the Primary we saw long standing incumbents losing their races and new seats retaining their seats. What is interesting here is some of the most controversial incumbents will remain in office while the ones who found sound reasoning were voted out. Only time will tell if this is a good process or not.

On the county side in Idaho we will see 30 new commissioners this next year with some retirements and some defeats. All other county elected positions will also have changes however not quite as many as the commissioners.

Idaho still being a Red State is starting to see some changes with the Blue’s finding footholds in some areas. I am starting to see a few more “D’s” being elected and all of us are watching this close.

Well I just spoke on Idaho and will leave the other states to the Regional Representatives.

Thanks, Gordon L. Cruickshank

The NCRCO Website can be found at ncrco.org or check us out on Facebook.
REGION 5 Report – (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee.)

By Chris Bowen, Forest County Supervisor, Mississippi

Mississippi - the State/Counties hosted both US Senate and House Republican and Democratic primaries at the beginning of June. There was a dismal turnout of the registered electorate and it appears to be just a sign of the times. Our Republican Secretary of State did a good job warning of this pending low voter turnout through the poor numbers posted in absentee voting in advance of the actual election. Incumbent Senator Roger Wicker(R) had an easy time advancing to the November General Election, where he will be challenged by the winner of the Democratic runoff. Look for that opponent to utilize the legalization of marijuana as a campaign issue against Wicker. In the November General Election, of the 4 House seats MS has, two will likely be retained by incumbent republicans, Congressmen Steven Palazzo and Congressman Trent Kelly, one will continue to go to (D) Bennie Thompson (a former County Supervisor), and the last one, though it is being contested, will likely remain in the Republican category. Longtime Senate Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran resigned from office, and had that position filled with our sitting Agricultural Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith (R) by our Governor (R) Phil Bryant. This seat will be subject to the election process this November.

Alabama - According to Politico, Republican primary voters in Alabama will have to decide which is worse: a vote against Donald Trump, or a vote for Nancy Pelosi.

That will be the key question in a July primary runoff involving GOP Rep. Martha Roby, who failed to win re-nomination in her primary when she fell below 50 percent of the vote. She will face former Rep. Bobby Bright, an ex-Democrat, in a head-to-head race for the Republican nomination in July. Roby spurned Trump in 2016, promising not to vote for him and calling for him to quit the presidential race after the Access Hollywood tape — which featured Trump bragging about how he could grope women with impunity — surfaced in the final weeks of the campaign.

Roby’s rejection of the president hurt, siphoning votes to a write-in candidate in the 2016 general election and drawing four Republican opponents into this year’s primary. She had 38 percent of the vote with more than three-quarters of precincts reporting, while Bright, a former mayor of Montgomery, had 28 percent.

“Martha Roby committed political suicide the day she said Donald Trump wasn’t qualified for political office,” said David Ferguson, a Republican strategist.

But Bright has his own baggage: a vote for Pelosi as speaker of the House from 2009, at the beginning of Bright’s one and only term in Congress as a Democrat. Roby attacked Bright over the vote when she beat him in a general election eight years ago, and the charge can only be more potent in a Republican primary. (Continued on Page 10)
That leads Roby supporters say that a Roby-Bright rematch is the "best scenario" for her. “He’s a Democrat that the Republican Party should never have let join,” Brown added. Bright told BuzzFeed that the vote for Pelosi was “procedural,” noting that it was “before Nancy Pelosi became so toxic.”

Tennessee - In April, the state Republican Party took action to remove seven Senate candidates and one gubernatorial candidate from the August ballot because they lacked the voting credentials to justify running as Republicans. The state GOP's rules require that candidates be active members of the party and vote in three of four statewide Republican primaries in their counties of residence.

Kentucky -
According to the Washington Post, in April, Republicans in Kentucky’s state legislature overturned Gov. Matt Bevin's (R) vetoes of their tax overhaul and budget plan, capping a dramatic confrontation between members of the same party that has also seen thousands of teachers descend on the state Capitol in protests for better pay. The impasse between the governor and the Republican lawmakers kicked off earlier this month, when the state legislature unveiled a tax package to dramatically cut income and business taxes in the state. The plan aimed to pay for those cuts by dramatically increasing sales taxes, leading one analysis to project that it would wind up raising taxes on all but the wealthiest 5 percent of state residents.

In other news, according to the USA Today, the State Republican Party has attempted to distance itself from one of their candidates for Secretary of State because of his threatening tweet of committing gun violence against a Democratic Representative. The article plays to an audience subject to the ongoing debate surrounding gun violence in schools and other public venues.

Additionally, but unrelated to the gun debate, according to Marijuana.com, Sen. Seum, Kentucky’s Republican Senate Majority Caucus Chairman, hypothesized that legalizing recreational marijuana could add as much as “$100 million” annually to the state’s depleted coffers and as such, would make an attempt to introduce adult use only legislation in the 2018 session.

By Ron Wesen
Skagit County Commissioner, Washington

Alaska:
Independent Governor Walker signed a $10.4 billion state operating budget, a $1.5 billion capital construction and renovation budget, a mental health treatment budget and a bill that includes a plan to spend from the Alaska Permanent Fund for the first time, in June. Lawmakers approved a $1,600 per person dividend from the Permanent Fund instead of the traditional formula of $2,650 per person. Lawmakers have been reducing funding for many different services, including building maintenance, and retirement system to reduce cost. If oil prices remain high, the state’s $700 million annual deficit will be reduced or eliminated.

Idaho:
Republicans have a majority in the house and the senate along with Republican Governor Butch Otter. Idaho counties had nine priorities for the 2018 Legislative session. Five of the legislative priorities were signed into law. New records retention requirements for law enforcement. Reduction of the minimum age requirement for poll workers from 17 to 16. Early voting plans only needing to be submitted once per year instead of prior to each election. Clarifying delinquent tax payments must be applied to most outstanding tax delinquency. Clarified how late payments and interest are applied to missed and subsequent property rolls. They secured additional State funding with the Idaho Sheriffs’ Association to house state inmates in county jails. The fee will increase from $45 a day to $55 for the first seven days and $75 every day after.

Montana:
Montana Congressman Greg Gianforte, honored Harold Blattie, with the Spirit of Montana award for his successful leadership of Montana Association of Counties and his 40 years of public service. Congressman Gianforte presents this award on the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives for the Congressional Record. Eric Bryson became the new executive director. Montana’s Legislators meet in regular session during odd years.

Oregon:
Oregon counties are continuing work to secure more funding for restoration work after the Eagle Creek and Chetco Bar fires. They were able to secure $1.15 million in new resources from their legislators during the short session. Opioid treatment funding nearly doubled in the last session. The Association of Oregon Counties sent a letter to Interior Secretary Zinke reiterating their concerns with reintroducing grizzly bears into Washington State. If grizzlies are introduced, Oregon association of counties clearly and strenuously request to be notified and to be full partners in consultation from the beginning of the process.

(Continued on page 12)
Washington:
Washington State Legislators passed a Public Records Act revision that largely exempted state legislators and their offices from any of the requirements that all other local elected officials must follow. The legislators passed and the Governor signed a bill requiring counties with over 400,000 people to have district based general elections after 2022. Each county has been allowed to adopt their own form of government by county charter. Spokane County failed to pass a charter form of government a few years ago, so the legislators have now forced the county to elect by district in the general election.

**NCRCO members in NACO Leadership Roles**

One of the things that change at each NACO Annual conference is the leadership of NACo itself. We elect a new President, the current President becomes past president, the current VPs move up a slot and a new set of Presidential appointments step into their committee roles. With each changing of the guard, some of our members assume chairmanships and offices and others transition out of NACo leadership roles.

It seems appropriate therefore that we take this opportunity to recognize our members who have been in NACo leadership roles during the 2017-2018 NACo year.

**Officers and Executive Committee:**

- Immediate Past President of NACo: Bryan Desloge, Commissioner, Leon County, FL
- Vice President of NACo: Greg Cox, Supervisor, San Diego County, CA
- Central Region Representative: Cindy Bobbitt, Commissioner Grant County OK
- Northeast Region Representative: Christian Leinbach, Commission Chair, Berks County PA
- West Region Representative: Gordon Cruickshank, Commissioner, Valley County, ID

**Steering Committee, Caucus & Standing Committee Chairs:**

- Finance, Pensions & Intergovern Affairs: Chip LaMarca, Commissioner, Broward County, FL
- Human Services and Education: Nancy Sharpe, Commissioner, Arapahoe County, CO
- Telecommunications & Technology: Jason Brinkley, County Judge, Cooke County, TX
- Transportation: Gary Moore, Judge Executive, Boone County, KY
- Rural Action Caucus: J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County, TX
- IT Standing Committee: Lew Gaiter, Commissioner, Larimer County, CO
- NACo Audit Committee: Mike McGinley, Commissioner, Beaverhead County, MT
At each of the NACo membership meetings our association gathers to conduct our business and to relax with great speakers. The 2018 NACo Annual Conference in Nashville will be a bit different than our traditional model.

The NCRCO Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers will take place on July 14th in the Canal D, Convention Center, Delta Mezzanine, Level M from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. That rather long room number is within the NACo Host Hotel (Opryland Resort & Conference Center) so hopefully it will be easy to locate.

The second event which is our reception will be held in the heart of the downtown music district at the Wild Horse Saloon on Sunday July 15th from 6 to 7:30 pm. The Wild Horse is located at 120 2nd Ave N which is very close to the drop off/pick up point for the NACo shuttle buses. NACo has arranged buses to be running from the conference hotel to the music district that evening to allow attendees to get a taste of what makes Nashville the “Music City”.

The business meeting is open to the public but the reception is members and their guests only.

2018 NCRCO paid members will find their tickets waiting for them at the business meeting for pick up. You can also purchase a guest ticket in advance online by using the link provided to paid members.

Guest tickets are $20 and your annual dues remain $30. Dues are now due for 2018, please use the online payment system or be prepared to pay at the business meeting.

The online payment system can be accessed through the NCRCO website at www.NCRCO.org. Click the “Pay Dues” button to initiate the pay dues on line function or the click the “NCRCO Store” button to purchase merchandise or tickets for your reception guest.
McLane Group is a holding company comprised of a variety of diverse enterprises that demonstrate a tradition of excellence and innovation established more than a century ago. McLane Group is a privately held entity located in Temple, Texas. Although headquarters are in Central Texas, the company and its entities have a worldwide footprint.

Drayton McLane Jr. serves as chairman of McLane Group. A native Texan, this acclaimed businessman, leader, and generous philanthropist ensures the focus of all his endeavors is based upon strong Christian values and moral ethics. With business principals passing through generations, McLane Group continues to stress the honorable qualities extolled by McLane’s forefathers: honesty, integrity, and high ethical principles.

Through the years, Drayton McLane Jr. has shaped a diverse portfolio within the McLane Group. Currently, the holding company is comprised of several entities within global logistics, the technology industry, and food production. Past ventures range from international distribution to a major league baseball team. In addition, Mr. McLane has investments in several joint business ventures within the information technology market.

The McLane name is synonymous with a strong commitment to quality and innovation. Drayton McLane Jr. began his career assisting his father in the family business, building a strong grocery distribution network that grew into one of the largest distributors in the world. Today the heritage continues through McLane’s sons Drayton III and Denton, while the family tradition of excellence remains within the collection of McLane companies.

McLane Intelligent Solutions (McLane Intel) is the most relevant company to counties. It is an IT Managed Services company headquartered in Temple, Texas, with offices in Bryan/College Station. The company provides outsourced IT Services to small and medium sized businesses and non-profit organizations throughout the state of Texas. Founded in 1999 as JC Technology Group, the company was acquired by Drayton McLane in the summer of 2004. McLane Intel was founded on a core set of values and business principles that have guided them since its inception.

Those original principles were:

- Communicate in a language the client can understand
- Keep the Client informed
- Always be on time – keep our commitments

Led by an experienced executive management team, McLane Intel possesses exceptional technical skills.

These are demonstrated by a wide variety of individual certifications from Microsoft, Citrix, VMWare, Cisco, and many others. McLane Intel has a commitment to integrity, growth, and best practices.
Annual Conference Meeting
Agenda
July 14, 2018
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Canal D, Convention Center
Delta Mezzanine Level M

Call to Order / Welcome  Joe Briggs
Opening Prayer -        Darry Stacy
Pledge to the flag -     Jon Burrows
Approval of the minutes  J.D. Clark

Short statements from NACO 2nd VP
Candidates will be accommodated during
the meeting as they join us.  Joe Briggs

Financial Reports and approval  Mike McGinley
Report of the Audit Committee  Cindy Bobbitt
Report of the Nominations Committee  Jon Burrows
   Call for additional nominations
   Election of 2018-2019 Officers & Directors
   Swearing in of new Officers & Directors

Comments by outgoing President   Joe Briggs
Comments by incoming President   New President
New Business -                   New President
For the Good of the Order -      New President
Adjourn -