



# County Courier

## National Conference of Republican County Officials

**June 2016**

### Speaker for Annual NCRCO Reception announced

Comments from our President.	2
Annual meeting and Reception on July 24.	2
Report of the Nominations Committee	3
Treasurer's Report	4
2016 Leg Con Minutes (Draft)	5
Regional Director Report 1 & 2	6
Regional Director Reports 3 & 4	7
Regional Director Reports 4 & 8	8
Regional Director Reports 9 & 11	9
Regional Director Reports 11 continued	10
The McLane Group 2016 Platinum Sponsor	11

We are pleased to announce that GAIL GITCHO, one of the most talented communications professionals in politics today, has agreed to be the speaker at the NCRCO Reception on July 24 at the NACo Annual Conference in Long Beach, CA.

Gail previously served as Communications Director for the Republican Governor's Association for the 2014 cycle, when 38 Governor's races were up. Additionally she was the Communications Director for Governor Mitt Romney's 2012 Presidential campaign.

She has also served in the roles of Communications Director for U.S. Senator Scott Brown of Massachusetts in 2010-2011, Press Secretary at the Republican National Committee in 2009-2010, Mid-Atlantic Communications Director for U.S. Senator John McCain's 2008 Presidential campaign, and as a Regional Press Secretary on Governor Mitt Romney's 2008 Presidential campaign. She also served as Florida Congressman Clay Shaw's Communications Director from 2004 to 2007.

In this unique Presidential campaign, Gail will give us her inside perspective on how campaigning has changed and how much campaigning has remained the same. For those of us currently in a campaign or have one coming up, we will have one of the Pros offering ideas and insights on how to approach this new era of politics. Don't miss this.

The Reception will follow the NCRCO Business Meeting on Sunday, July 24, at the Long Beach Convention Center. The Business Meeting is at 5:00 p.m. in Room 201B, followed by the Reception at 6:00 p.m. in Room 103B.

Both rooms are close to the main entrance to the Convention Center, just separated by one floor.

REMINDER: Annual dues are on a calendar year basis. If you have not yet paid, please do so. Payment of your \$30 annual dues includes entry to the Reception. Guest tickets are \$20. Both can be paid on line at [www.ncrco.org](http://www.ncrco.org) or at the door.

Please mark your calendars now for the exciting opportunity to hear, during a Presidential Election Year, from one of the most talented communications professionals in politics today.



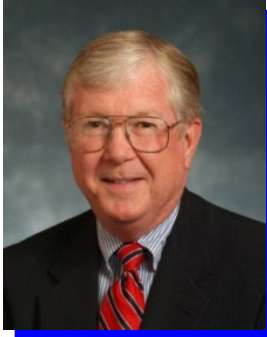
**Gail Gitcho, Former Republican Governor's Association Communications Director**

Submitted by....  
JON BURROWS, NCRCO President

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

## President Jon Burrows

### Watch for NCRCO Past-President Ray Valdes Speaking at Republican National Convention



**NCRCO President  
Jon Burrows**

Historically, the current NCRCO President is given an opportunity to speak at the RNC Presidential Convention, during a non-prime time slot. With the NACo Annual Conference following so close to the RNC Convention, none of the current officers are available for the Presidential Convention.

But, we have submitted the name of someone who would be an outstanding representative of NCRCO – Ray Valdes, Seminole County Florida Tax Collector. Ray's impressive Republican credentials include:

Past-President of NCRCO

Past-President of the National Association of County Treasurers, Finance Officers, and Tax Collectors

Past-President of the National Association of County Hispanic Officials

Past-President of all Florida Tax Collectors

Past National County Treasurer/Tax Collector of the Year

Seminole County, Florida Tax Collector – Re-Elected Every 4-Year Cycle Since 1988

Innumerable Republican Party Positions at the County and State Level

We have not received confirmation as yet, but are hopeful to see Ray speaking during non-prime time on C-SPAN. We will keep you informed.

## **NCRCO Annual Business meeting and RECEPTION are approaching fast!**

At each of NACo membership meetings our association gathers to conduct our business and to relax with a great speaker. The 2016 Annual NACo Conference in Long Beach is no exception.

The NCRCO Annual Business Meeting and Reception will be held on Sunday, July 24, 2016, at the Long Beach Convention Center. The Business Meeting is at 5:00 p.m. in Room 201B, followed by the Reception at 6:00 p.m. in Room 103B.

The business meeting is open to the public but the reception is members and their guests only. Our guest speaker at the reception will be Gail Gitcho. Ms Gitcho is a high powered political communications professional that I am sure you will want to hear.

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.

## Past President Cindy Bobbitt Report of the Nominating Committee

### Nominating Committee:

Cindy R. Bobbitt, Chair, Immediate Past President  
Jon Burrows, Member, Current President  
Christian Leinbach, Member, Active Past President  
Jason Williams, Member, Regional Director  
Gary Moore, Member, Member-at-large



In accordance with the NCRCO Bylaws the Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of individuals for the nomination of NCRCO Officers and Region Directors at the Business Meeting on July 24, 2016 to serve for fiscal year 2016/17.

President – Jon Burrows, Bell County Judge (TX)  
Vice President – Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commissioner (MT)  
Treasurer – Robert Boyd, Riley County Commissioner (KS)

### Regional Directors:

Region 1 – Toni Pappas, Hillsborough County Commissioner (NH) – (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Region 2 – Jeff Haste, Dauphin County Commissioner (PA) – (running for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Region 3 – Rob Arlett, Sussex County Councilman (DE) – (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Region 4 – Chip LaMarca, Broward County Commissioner (FL) – (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Region 5 – Paul Boyd, Shelby County Probate Clerk (TN) – (running for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Region 6 – Kent Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor (IN) – (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Region 7 – Duane Sutton, Brown County Commissioner (SD) – (running for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Region 8 – Ryan Wescoat, Cass County Auditor (MO) – (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Region 9 – Darry Stacy, Cleveland County Commissioner (OK) – (running for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Region 10 – Lew Gaiter, Larimer County Commissioner (CO) – (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Region 11 – Gordon Cruickshank, Valley County Commissioner (ID) – (running for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Region 12 – Demar Dahl, Elko County Commissioner (NV) – (1<sup>st</sup> term)

NCRCO members may nominate from the floor any member for any position at the meeting and all elections shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order. All Officers shall be a current NCRCO dues paid member and be a current elected or appointed Republican County Officials.

The President, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President shall hold office for a term of one year, or until their successor takes office. The Secretary and Treasurer shall each serve a two year staggered term, with the Secretary elected in odd number years and the Treasurer elected in even number years. Officers may hold only one office at a time and may not serve simultaneously as an Officer and as a Region Director.

Ken Klein, Snohomish County Councilman (WA) will be serving the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the term for Secretary and therefore is not up for re-election or election. Cindy Bobbitt, Grant County Commissioner (OK) will be serving as the Immediate Past President per bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy R. Bobbitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

## Treasurer's Report—Joe Briggs



Allow me to begin by thanking the officers and members of the NCRCO for having had the pleasure of serving as your Treasurer since July of 2013.

I took over the position in the middle of a two year term and am now completing my own two year term. I would also like to thank those of you who are using the online payment system or paying your dues in advance of the conferences. It makes the Treasurers job much easier.

As in years past, we have a number of members who wait until the annual meeting or shortly before the meeting to pay their annual dues. Accordingly the membership numbers reported at the Leg Conference are always significantly lower than those at the end of the year (Annual meeting). With that caveat in mind here is a condensed version of the financial report I gave at Leg Con in February.

As of February 18, 2016 paid membership stood at 35 with cash in the bank of \$12,024.66.

There were no outstanding payables or receivables but there were expected expenses for the conference such as shipping and catering for the reception for which we had not yet been billed of \$ 2,625.

It should be noted that although dues is on a calendar basis that the fiscal year of NCRCO is August 1 through July 31. The current fiscal year through Feb 18th included

collection of \$1,050 in dues, donations of \$5,020, reception revenue of \$20 and \$50 in Challenge Coin sales. Expenses paid during that period were only \$23.99.

This artificially low expense level requires a bit of explanation.

Typically we utilize the NACo host hotel for the receptions at the Annual and Leg Conferences and as a result the catering is billed by the Hotel to NACo which in turn bills us for our portion of the overall NACo catering event bill.

This works very well but does delay the invoice until the next NCRCO fiscal year. In 2015, the board decided to have our Annual conference event at the NASCAR Hall of Fame instead of in the NACo Conference hotel. It was a great event but we were required to pay for everything in advance.

As a result our FY 2015 expenses included the 2014 Annual Conference event (delayed billing), the 2015 Leg Con event and the 2015 Annual Conference event. Whereas the current fiscal year will only contain the costs of the catering from the Leg Con reception for which we had not yet been billed at the time of my report.

The event that we will enjoy at the 2016 Annual NACo conference will not be billed to us until August and as such will be a FY 2017 expense.

As a result of this one time change in the timing of the reception expenses, FY 2015 is artificially high and FY2016 will be artificially low.

Now turning our attention to the upcoming meeting and reception at the NACo Annual Conference, I would again ask the following:

To simplify the check in process before the events at the Annual Conference I am again asking all of our members to please pay their dues in advance.

This simple action will allow us to avoid members having to stand in line to check in at the event. Prepaid members will find their name badge ready for pickup and you can proceed directly into the meeting rather than being delayed.

Prepayment can be accomplished either by using the secure credit card system (PayPal) that can be accessed from our website at [ncrco.org](http://ncrco.org) or by sending your check for \$30 along with your contact information to the address displayed in the blue box below.

Paid members will also receive via email a link that will allow you to prepay for a guest to attend the reception as well. The cost of a guest ticket remains \$20 and every paid member is allowed to purchase a single guest ticket.

We will of course be happy to accept payment at the conference as well, but I hate lines, don't you?

See you soon in sunny California,

Joe Briggs, Treasurer

**NCRCO Treasurer  
5900 Western Drive  
Great Falls MT 59404**

**NCRCO Annual dues are \$30**

## Minutes of the 2016 Leg Conference Meeting—Ken Klein

February 22, 2016 5:00 pm

Washington, DC

Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

The meeting was called to order by President Jon Burrows (TX), who also welcomed members and guests.

Robert Boyd (KS) opened in prayer.

Roll call was taken by sign in sheet. A quorum was declared present.

**Officers in attendance:** President Jon Burrows, Immediate Past President Cindy Bobbitt, Treasurer Joe Briggs, Secretary Ken Klein

**Members in attendance:** Darius Allen, Jim Allen, Robert Arlett, Robert Boyd, Dick Cecil, Greg Chilcott, Sallie Clark, George Cole, Greg Cox, Gordon Cruickshank, Demar Dahl, Richard Dunbar, Ed Eilert, Gary Fickes, Cathy Flaig, Lew Gaiter III, Michael Jeanes, Charles Jones, Tom Keyes, Steve Kilka, Christian Leinbach, Michael Logsdon, John Martin, Ken Mayfield, Gary Moore, Jimmy Odom, Dave Paul, Mark Roeber, Darry Stacy, Norm Steen, Bob Thomas, Ryan Westcoat, Glen Whitley, David Zimmerman

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Jon Burrows (TX) offered the minutes from July 12, 2015. John Martin (CO) moved for approval, Dick Cecil (DE) seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Joe Briggs (MT) offered the financial report. Dick Cecil (DE) moved for approval.

Gordon Cruickshank (ID) seconded. Financial report and budget were approved.



District Reports were provided in the newsletter and at the meeting.

Gary Moore, Issues Committee Chair gave an update.

On Transportation - Congress passed the FAST Act. On Land Use – The Waters of the US ruling is making its way through the court system.

President Jon Burrows (TX) recognized McLane Group for their sponsorship.

A request was made for ideas on where to hold the annual meeting in Long Beach, CA.

Introductions were made and local issues discussed.

### NEW BUSINESS

John Martin (CO) discussed access to public lands specifically to the preservation of historic rights of way. Asked for support of his resolution.

Christian Leinbach (PA) spoke about the Governor's meeting. Discussed budget issues and disagreements between legislature and governor.

Christian and Jon discussed the "Cadillac Tax" which Congress has delayed the implementation of for two years.

Hearing no further business, Dick Cecil (DE) moved for adjournment at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Klein (WA), Secretary



**McLANE GROUP**  
*Leading the Charge*



## Regional Director's Reports

### Regions 1 & 2

**REGION 1 Report** - (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont).

By Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, Merrimack County Commissioner, New Hampshire

Greetings from New Hampshire!

Well, we lost a great advocate for the National Association of Counties and the Republican Party this year. Carol Holden passed away with heart problems after her attendance at the NACO Legislative Conference in Washington D.C..

She did a lot for NACO and our party. She is and will be sorely missed.

New Hampshire continues to be important in the National news as it is viewed as an important State in the up-coming Presidential election

The political ads are almost continuous from both parties regarding our State Senator Kelly Ayotte and her Democratic opponent (our current Governor) Maggie Hasson.

Donald Trump won our primary here but some of his remarks are making people think again.

Bernie Sanders won the State for the Democrats and even some Super Delegates here are continuing to vow that they will vote for Bernie at the Democratic Party Convention. It should be interesting!

#### **Editors note:**

*Carol Holden was a longtime member of and a Past President of NCRCO. She was a dedicated public servant who served as a Hillsboro County Commissioner, as a member of the State House of Representatives and as a member of the state constitutional convention. She also served us as a member of the Board of Directors of NACO.*

**REGION 2 Report** – (Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania)

By Jeff Haste, Dauphin County Commissioner, Pennsylvania

**New York-** Republican National Committee has opened a regional office in Queens, New York.

With the State of New York being in play in this year's Presidential Election, excitement is growing with the opening of this office. The Republican Party continues to fight the Democrat Governor's attempt to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15.00

**Connecticut-** The Connecticut Republican Party is conducting a grassroots movement called "Take Back Connecticut" in an effort to give citizens a viable option to the State's Liberals. Carly Fiorina was the guest speaker at the 2016 Prescott Bush Awards Dinner held at the Hilton in Stamford CT.

**New Jersey-** Voters in New Jersey just capped off the Primary season that started with Governor Christie running for President and ended with Gov Christie helping Donald Trump win the state's 51 delegates.

When they say 1 vote counts, IT DOES !!! In January, Republican Melissa DeCastro was sworn into the office of Salem County Freeholder after winning the election by 1 vote over her Democrat opponent.

**Pennsylvania-** Republican voters of Pa overwhelmingly gave Donald Trump their support for President. This year the Republican faithful will try to place PA in the Republican column for President as well as elect a Republican Attorney General, Auditor General and Treasurer. The popular Senator Pat Toomey will also be seeking reelection.

As of this writing, the Democrat Governor has still not been able to get a budget passed by the Republican Legislature.

His inability to have a budget passed is a growing strain on the 67 counties of PA.

## Regional Director's Reports

### Regions 3 & 4

**REGION 3 Report** - (Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia).

By Jason Williams, Gaston County Commissioner, North Carolina

**West Virginia** - Things are heating up in the West Virginia General Assembly. Republicans in the house and senate are trying to avoid a government shut-down while not increasing the tax burden on the citizens. The state's Democratic governor has threatened to veto the measure which would likely lead to a standoff and potential shutdown of West Virginia's government.

**Delaware** - As in most states, it's all about the budget in Delaware. Facing a \$75.3 million gap between available revenue and the governor's proposed budget, the general assembly is looking for pockets of funding and ways to find the difference. To many of us who serve on county boards, it will come as no surprise that they are looking to county governments to shoulder more of the burden. It is highly expected that they will require counties to (magically) absorb the additional mandate and continue to offer the services without assistance from the State. As we can probably all attest, this is becoming more and more common across the country.

**Maryland** - Republican governor Larry Hogan continues to be a hawk on tax increases and increasing financial responsibility in Maryland. He has vetoed five bills that he believes will put an undue burden on the taxpayer or was considered more unnecessary government overreach. It's unclear which, if any of these bills the general assembly may try to override.

**North Carolina** - I'm sure by now you've all heard of the infamous HB 2 in North Carolina. After the City of Charlotte ignored warning from the State and passed a common sense denying ordinance requiring everyone from churches to schools to allow people to use bathrooms and locker rooms based off the gender they identify with at the time, the State stepped in and passed a bill nullifying that ordinance. The liberal media and misinformed celebrities have tried to make this look like bigotry from the GOP general assembly. In all reality, it was about safety and protecting our daughters from ill intended people. None of us want men using bathrooms with our wives and daughters!

**Virginia** - Virginia made headlines for all the wrong reasons recently. It was reported that the FBI and

Department of Justice has made Gov. Terry McAuliffe the focus of an ongoing investigation. Naturally McAuliffe said that he's confident a federal investigation into donations made to his 2013 campaign will find no wrongdoing. While the exact nature of the probe is unclear, it is thought that investigators are looking at donations to McAuliffe's 2013 gubernatorial campaign, particularly \$120,000 McAuliffe received from Chinese businessman Wang Wenliang. McAuliffe also sought to distance the investigation from The Clinton Foundation.

It is just as though controversy and corruption somehow follows the Clinton's!

**REGION 4 Report** - (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Island).

By Ray Valdes, Seminole County Tax Collector, Florida

*From the Washington Times, "Understanding Donald Trump" by Newt Gingrich: (Paraphrased)*

"Donald Trump is a genuine phenomenon. It is clear that he is a phenomenon and that any history of the 2016 presidential race will have to spend a good bit of time analyzing Trump and his impact.

From the time he announced in June 2015, Trump has dominated social and mainstream media. He dominates the conversation despite the lack of paid advertising. Trump says outrageous things and his avid supporters shrug it off. At every turn and every day his poll numbers continue to rise."

*From an undisclosed blog: (Paraphrased)*

As a step toward understanding the amazing performance of Donald Trump, one should read his first best-seller, 'The Art of the Deal' written in 1987. This book is a classic among American business books and has influenced a generation of entrepreneurs. He wrote it when he was 41 years old.

The portrait that emerges from this easy-to-read and remarkably interesting book is of an aggressive, ambitious person who is constantly pushing, constantly learning, and always seeking the next challenge. Reporters and analysts who are trying to understand Trump would be well served by taking the time to read this nearly three-decade-old bestseller.

## Regional Director's Reports

### Regions 4 & 8

#### **REGION 4 Report** (Continued from page 7)

Donald Trump has developed a remarkable set of rules and principles that allow him to make decisions with incredible speed. Trump knows a lot, but what is amazing is how rapidly he figures out what he doesn't know.

There are many varied stories of his accomplishments that will be retold in the months ahead.

Here is an interesting analogy:

You've been on vacation for two weeks, you come home, and find your basement is infested with raccoon's. Hundreds of messy, mean raccoon's have overtaken your basement.

You want them gone immediately so you hire a guy. A pro. You don't care if the guy you need to fix the problem has his own method, you need those raccoon's gone pronto and he's the guy to do it! You don't care if the guy swears a bit, you don't care if he drinks a beer on the job, you don't care how many times he's been married, you don't care if he voted for Obama, you don't care if he has a plumber's crack, you simply want those raccoon's gone! You want your problem fixed! He's the guy. He's the best.

Sound like anyone you have been hearing or reading about lately?

Donald Trump will be the Republican Party Candidate for U.S. President. We need to give him and back him 100%.

#### **REGION 8 Report** – (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

By Robert Boyd, Riley County Commissioner, Kansas

The County Leadership Institute week is complete; I am winging my way home, many new methodologies and techniques in the commissioner toolbox to employ. If you have not attended, it is well worth the investment in time and treasure for it will give a commissioner the tools to tackle complex, contentious issues. It does not guarantee success, but does give the skills and the confidence to tackle some very big, thorny issues in your county.

**Kansas** is in turmoil, bleeding Kansas is an old tag with very new and applicable meaning. Our state legislature has struggled to produce a valid fiscal plan and budget and will be coming back into special session to

address school funding. Our State Supreme Court has decreed the current level of funding unconstitutional per the state constitution. The Governor has his own fiscal crisis as state revenues for May were significantly lower than budgeted which entails cuts to operating budgets in June to meet the constitutional mandate of a balanced budget on 1 July, the beginning of the state's fiscal year. All and all it is a mess and the current voter sentiment is decidedly against incumbents. Our counties are constructing their own 2017 budgets with increased obligations mandated by the state and a new state mandated tax lid. A toxic environment to say the least, but our Commissioners are soldiering on and placing blame where it is appropriate.

**Nebraska** has entered into the discussion of nonpartisan elected officials being aligned with a political party. The Nebraska legislature is nonpartisan while the State Administration is a partisan group. Governor Ricketts, Republican, called out fellow Republican state senators by name for not supporting him on certain issues which prompted much discussion and media attention. At least one senator has left the party and registered as a Libertarian citing the lack of competing views allow by our party. There are two sides to every story, and it is a story, but the bottom line is another sound bite in our campaign season we could and should have avoided.

**Missouri** is in the midst of the primary season with more energy and money in it than ever before. It comes at a unique time for the state as fallout from the racial issues of the last year subsides and the underlying issues are being addressed. Governor Nixon signed a bipartisan bill to expand Medicaid which is designed to help elderly and disabled receive services at home; an example of government solving issues.

**Iowa** leads our nation in electioneering, becomes the epicenter of all political media attention every four years, and yet gets on with the business of governing its state. They tackle such local issues as body cameras for police, flood issues and property taxes just as every other local government leader. Its legislature, under Republican leadership (not control), has again committed to not spend more than it takes in, while supporting K-12 education and providing protection for the Iowa taxpayer.



## Regional Director's Reports

### Regions 9 & 11

**REGION 9 Report** – (Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas.)

By Darry Stacy, Cleveland County Commissioner, Oklahoma

Sometimes you do not appreciate things until you have another experience to compare it too. I had the opportunity to visit my son who is stationed in the Army in Vicenza Italy and then tour Europe.

As I write this I am traveling from Paris to London. The USA is a great place to live! Our forms of local government, particularly county are unparalleled. The freedoms we take for granted are often forgotten when we have no comparison.

I truly believe we are unique in our government that was designed to serve the people rather than the people serving the government. Counties exemplify that daily on the most basic level. As we continue in this election cycle and hear words thrown around such as "socialism" we need to take a moment and remember what made the United States the greatest nation on earth. Those are the beliefs we hold dear as Republicans in this magnificent Republic. And if you don't believe me, take a trip for comparison or vote Democrat and wait and see.

**REGION 11 Report** – (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington)

By Gordon L. Cruickshank, Valley County Commissioner, Idaho.

**Alaska** - State Legislators are still in session. They were in day 136 of a normal 90 day session on June 2, 2016. Facing a 4.1 Billion deficit due to the drop in oil prices and many facing reelection no one wants to use the "TAX" word so they are kicking the can down the road. They are considering tax incentives for oil drilling but seem to not finding solutions. The lack of leadership in the Legislature has resulted in a sad state of affairs for the state. So while the state issues are in front of the people nothing is being looked at in local elections. The State's credit rating is dropping and people are leaving Alaska as a result of the above.

**Idaho** held their Primary on May 17th where we saw some State Legislators lose their seats and some with heavy opposition were able to hang on. The sense was

they were not conservative enough for Idaho. Sections of the state are seeing stronger Democratic efforts however not being effective enough it appears. We lost several long term County Commissioners and some others who were more of a one item commissioner lost out as well. State legislators did pass on some financial support for Public Defense to the counties however the Public Defense Standards are still being worked on. So we get funding to help but don't know the rules yet.

In the US Congress races Senator Mike Crapo "R" will have challenges in the General by a Democrat and a Constitutionalist, Congressman Mike Simpson "R" will also have a Democrat and Constitutionalist in the General and Congressman Raul Labrador "R" will have a Democratic challenge in the General. All three of these incumbents are expected to hold their seats.

**Montana** had their Primary on June 7, 2016. In their State Legislature 25 Senate seats and 50 House seats up for grabs. Both houses are controlled by Republicans. Democrats will make some inroads but not anticipated to change the control of either house.

Within the Republican controlled legislature, the Tea Party wing of the party lost ground overall while the moderate wing of the Republican's held their ground and picked up a couple seats. In fact, every Senator and Representative running for re-election that broke ranks and supported the final infrastructure bill, Medicaid expansion and a few other controversial bills in 2015 was re-elected in spite of heavy efforts from the far-right to oust them in their primary races.

When the dust settles it looks like the Montana House will be split 59 Republicans and 41 Democrats ± 2-3. However of the 59 Republicans, 12 or so will break ranks and vote with the Dems to advance certain issues. That clearly puts them in control because they will carry the swing votes on every issue.

In the senate it looks like it will also continue to be controlled by the Republicans on a 29-21 split, again ± 2-3 with about 8 moderates, who will also be in the cat bird seat with their swing votes.

In County commission elections 14 incumbent commissioners did not file for reelection and 8 incumbents lost in their respective primaries. In most Montana counties this year only the Clerk of the District Court and a single commission seat are on the ballot

## Regional Director's Reports

### Regions 11 continued

along with several Statewide offices such as Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor and Superintendent of schools.

Commissioner Robinson from Phillips County, Montana and former WIR President is running on the Republican ticket as Lt. Governor with Republican Candidate Greg Gianforte for Governor. Montana runs a combination Governor/Lt. Governor together. Greg and Lesley easily overpowered their primary opponents although Democrats are attempting to spin a tale that the lack of an even bigger primary victory somehow shows weakness going into November.

In the US House of Representative Ryan Zinke was unopposed in the Primary but is being challenged by current Democrat Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau in the General. Zinke is expected to win this race. Several NCRCO members have strong challengers in the general election in November including our current NCRCO Treasurer Joe Briggs.

**Oregon** - All the State Congressional offices are held by Democrats that are up for election and not seeing any changes there. As for State Legislature which is held by 35 Democrats to 25 Republicans in the House and 18 Democrats and 12 Republicans in the Senate which could see a few changes to "R's" but not enough to change the control. 75% of the county commissioners and county judges are Non Partisan so no issues there for "R" vs "D".

Oregon's big issue is a proposed \$6 Billion gross receipts tax on the ballot in November.

**Washington** State has a major election cycle – including its Top 2 Primary on August 2nd. While generally a strong Democratic state – the State's lone Republican, Secretary of State Kim Wyman, (former Thurston County Auditor) faces a challenge from a former Seattle City Council Member.

All Statewide elected officials are up with FIVE OPEN seats (Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Commissioner of Public Lands), in addition four incumbents seeking reelection, Governor Inslee, Attorney General Ferguson, Secretary of State Wyman and Insurance Commissioner Kreidler.

The majority of the County Legislative Authority members are up for election this cycle. Many of them have already announced their retirement.

Of interest is at least 265 initiatives have been filed for potential spots on the Washington ballot. These include both Initiatives to the Legislature (ITL) and Initiatives to the People (ITP). In order to have the initiatives on the ballot in 2016, supporters must submit the requisite number of signatures by December 31, 2015 for ITL's and July 8, 2016 for ITP's. They both require 246,372 valid signatures to be placed on the ballot.



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](http://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.

If you are so inclined you may even dare to use them for their more modern purpose of issuing a drink challenge to your military friends.

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

## The McLane Group Platinum Sponsor for 2016

Founded by Drayton McLane Jr. in 1992, 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.



**McLANE GROUP**  
*Leading the Charge*