



GOP

County Courier

A Newsletter for the Partners in Grassroots Government

October, 2008

2008-2009 OFFICERS



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



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



Secretary: Robin Schiro
Archuleta County Commissioner, Pagosa Springs, Colorado



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McLean County Board Member, District 10



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



2008-2009 Regional Directors
Region 1: William "Bill" Doherty
Barnstable County Commissioner



Region 2: A. Alan Seidman
12th Legislative District



President's Report October 2008

If the past few months are any indication of how my term as NCRCO President will be, I can say I will not be bored!

Since taking office in July, I have had quite a wild ride. I was invited to speak at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, but hurricanes Fay, Gustav and Hannah had other plans. (For more on my trip to St. Paul, please see the brief article with photos in this issue.) Also, while making an innocuous contact with the Republican National Committee about our stationery I learned that our logo is no longer permissible, according to campaign finance reforms under the McCain-Feingold Act. So our Issues Committee will have a full plate right off the bat, considering redesign of the logo and amendments to our bylaws and constitution.

As of this writing, nearly all committee appointments have been made; however, if you are interested in serving on a particular committee that appears to have vacancies, please contact the chairman of that committee – their Email addresses are included with their names. I also hope to announce in the near future a Region 12 Director to represent the membership in Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

<p>Region 3: Richard C. "Dick" Cecil Past President/Lifetime Member</p>  <p>Region 4: Ray Valdes Seminole County Tax Collector</p>  <p>Region 5: Don Wallace Tuscaloosa County Commissioner</p>  <p>Region 6: Ray L. Feikert Holmes County Commission</p>  <p>Region 7: Scott Wagner Cass County Commissioner</p>  <p>Region 8: Stephen H. Holt Jasper County Tax Collector</p>  <p>Region 9: Suzanne Henderson Tarrant County Clerk</p>  <p>Region 10: Jack Hilbert Douglas County Commissioner</p>  <p>Region 11: Al Switzer Klamath County Commissioner</p> 	<p>The Executive Committee and Board of Directors have met monthly via conference call. The following business has been conducted on behalf of NCRCO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved renewal of a contract with Fountain Programming for website maintenance and design. Fountain is also preparing a price quote for logo redesign, which will be discussed at the October board meeting. • Contacted the White House regarding a continued NCRCO presence at all relevant gatherings and to be placed on the contact list for information dissemination. • Confirmed the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. March 7-10, 2009. The NCRCO reception is tentatively scheduled for March 9, but more information will follow when this is confirmed. <p>Fundraising efforts for NCRCO will be a priority during my year of service. It is my goal to raise \$20,000 from businesses I deal with daily, and I challenge you to do the same. I suggest you take advantage of the campaign fervor and complete your fundraising efforts before the General Election Nov. 4.</p> <p>NCRCO is a unique team of like-minded elected officials from across the United States. It is my goal to grow our organization, strengthen our team and establish NCRCO in the minds of our federal legislators as the premiere choice for information dissemination to and from Republicans at the grassroots. I look forward to you joining me in this effort with enthusiasm. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your suggestions and comments. Together we can make this an unforgettable year for Republicans nationwide.</p> <p>Respectfully yours,</p> <p>Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC Tax Collector, St. Johns County FL</p>
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2008 – 2009 COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

Chair: Carol Holden

David J. Ferdinand, II (ID)

Gary Moore (KY)

Debbi McGinnis (MO)

Nila B. Dayton (UT)

Budget & Finance Committee

Chair: Ben Owens (IL)

Members to be announced.

Hospitality Committee

Chair: Michael Long (OR)

Carol Holden

Dennis Hollingsworth

Will coordinate efforts with Ryan Yates, NACo Liaison

Issues Committee

Chair: Ray Valdes (FL)

Don Wallace

Scott Wagner

Membership Committee

Chair: Ben Owens (IL)

Stephen Holt

Dick Cecil

Nominating Committee

Chair: Carol Holden

Dennis Hollingsworth

Ray Valdes

Scott Wagner (ND)

Nancy Weeks, KS

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The Landmark Center, location of NACo reception



Rehearsing on the big stage



Dennis and Ryan Yates, NACo liaison.

Blown away in St. Paul

The opportunity to speak at the Republican National Convention was a once-in-a-lifetime thrill – and although I did not have a chance to speak, it was an honor to represent you at the event.

I received word the last week of August that I would need to be in St. Paul by Sunday, August 31. The process of drafting the speech was exhausting. Not only did I have a compressed timeframe to prepare, but I had to shoehorn the message I wanted to convey into a 1- to 2-minute window set by the RNC speechwriter, while also referencing a theme she wanted me to include.

From the moment I departed for St. Paul with my Assistant Tax Collector and speechwriter, the uncertainty regarding what role weather would play was prevalent. Hurricane Fay had just moved past Florida at a snail's pace, soaking the state. Hurricane Gustav steamed into the Gulf of Mexico, taking aim at Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi and Alabama. Tropical storms Ike and Kyle menaced the Caribbean.

My rehearsal Monday went on as planned, and I even had the opportunity to try out a few words on the main stage as they measured the lectern to my height. I can tell you I have a better appreciation for the men and women in the Secret Service as well as local law enforcement and military. The coordination and flow of travel from the hotel to the Excel Center was seamless, and security was tight. Several times we had to stop for police in riot gear to rush past our vehicle. We later learned that protesters and anarchists were targeting the SUVs because they knew they were for transporting VIPs.

Festivities Monday were reduced to the bare minimum with delegations gathered to conduct only necessary business. However, First Lady Laura Bush and Cindy McCain address the throng briefly regarding aid for those in the path of the storm. I met with NCRCO Secretary Robin Schiro and her husband, as well as Ryan Yates, our NACo liaison.

The second day of the Convention, I attended a NACo reception at the Landmark Center, an elegant building with striking architectural features on the downtown plaza. After waiting in a long line to enter the arena, the audience learned that the program was shortened considerably, and nearly two dozen speakers were bumped from the agenda; unfortunately, I was a casualty of the storm. But it is not everyone who can



Dennis with Robin Schiro, NCRCO Secretary, and her husband.



Dennis with Joe Jaso, consultant and former RNC liaison for NCRCO.



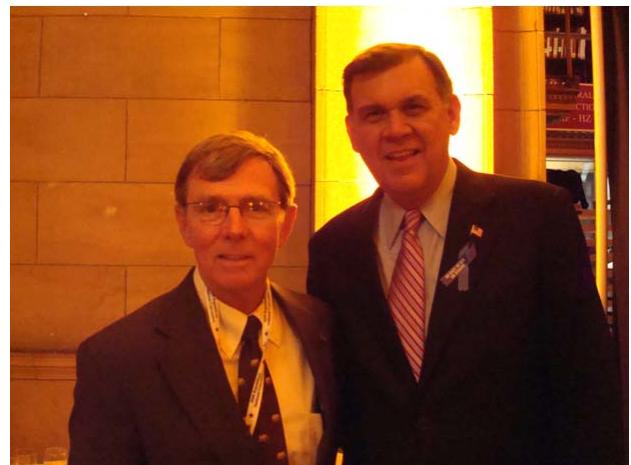
Dennis with U.S. Congressman John Mica of Florida.

say they were bumped by the President of the United

States! I was able to relax and enjoy the evening's speeches. I attended a National Treasure-themed event for the Florida delegation that evening, where I met with U.S. Congressman John Mica and Senator Mel Martinez, both of Florida. They agreed to attend the NCRCO reception in Washington, D.C., next Spring. I also met with Joe Jaso our RNC liaison from days past.

After noting on The Weather Channel that Hurricane Hannah was expected to make landfall at St. Augustine about the time my flight was to arrive Friday afternoon, I decided to depart St. Paul early on the flight my two staff members were to take. Of course, once we returned home the hurricane then veered into the ocean and barely caused the trees to sway in St. Augustine.

My staff surprised me with a terrific memento upon returning – a T-shirt to commemorate the experience that read "I was invited to speak at the Republican National Convention but all I got was this lousy T-shirt. Thanks, Hurricane Gustav!". Suffice to say, I was disappointed that I did not have a chance to speak during the official program. But even though I was blown away by Hurricane Gustav, I'm still full of hot air!



Dennis with U.S. Senator Mel Martinez of Florida



Dennis at the Convention.

What's up with the logo?

Recently I received notice from the Republican National Committee that we must "cease and desist" the use of the Official Elephant Logo as part of the NCRCO logo. The letter erroneously states that we are using the logo "without permission." However, I responded in writing to the RNC Associate Counsel Troy McCurry that the logo "...was used in the original design provided to us in stationery printed by the RNC during the 1980s and 1990s."

Regardless of how we arrived at this place, current law prohibits our continued use of the logo design NCRCO has had since its inception 30 years ago. I have asked our Issues Committee to consider possible design revisions that convey our party affiliation without infringing on any trademark concerns.

More information about this will be forthcoming; however, if you have suggestions regarding the redesign, please Email them to me at dennish@sjctax.us and Issues Committee Chair Ray Valdes at RValdes@seminoletax.org.

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

Visit our website for more information!!!

www.ncrco.org



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

MEMBERSHIP REPLY

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

Please complete the following information.

Send your reply along with your \$20 check, payable to:

The National Conference of Republican County Officials

Mail to

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

Renewal

New Member

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Fax# _____
Email Address _____

Title _____
County _____
Office # _____
Home/Cell# _____

**Please renew your \$20.00 membership today or become a new member.
Dues are paid on a calendar year basis.**

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO ENLIST NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR ORGANIZATION

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

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