

Wicomico Republican

Volume 2, Number 3

Fall 2008

Election 2008 Special Edition

This is a special expanded edition of the Wicomico Republican. In it we'll recap the events which have transpired through now and give you the scoop on the final hectic days as we count down to the 2008 elections on November 4th.

Unless you've been living under a rock you know that our Presidential candidate John McCain and running mate Sarah Palin are fighting not just their Democrat opponents Barack Obama and "Slow" Joe Biden but also the "drive-by" media who unabashedly support the Obama/Biden ticket's far-left, "spread the wealth" views. Fortunately, our base has been energized by the addition of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin to our ticket - we have the big-game hunter we need on our side.

Meanwhile, State Senator Andy Harris has been slugging it out for the First District Congressional seat with two opponents, Democrat Frank Kratovil of Stevensville and Libertarian Richard James Davis of Hurlock - the seat voters like you left vacant by sending incumbent Congressman Wayne Gilchrest packing. While Kratovil has been flooding the television airwaves claiming to be "independent" and "conservative," the reality is that Frank has been bought lock, stock, and barrel by Democrats inside the Beltway - most of those commercials have been paid for with nearly \$2 million devoted to their cause by the same folks who put Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid in charge of a Congress with a single-digit approval rating.

And this election is more than about just who will be our President and who represents us in Congress. A poor showing by Republicans will only embolden the Democrats and accelerate their tax-and-spend ways; not just in Washington D.C. but in Annapolis too. It'll be up to the grassroots - people like us - to win the campaign on the ground and show the Democrats we're not going away. More importantly, it will send a message to them for our state elections in 2010.

All this and more is inside this edition of the *Wicomico Republican*.

Successful events close out summer

Loyal Republicans were blessed twice in the span of two weeks, drawing near-perfect weather for two of their key fundraising events.

Back on September 20th the Wicomico County Republican Club held another successful Crab Feast, with nearly 250 patrons enjoying crabs, burgers, hotdogs, beverages both adult and soft, and the fellowship on a pleasantly sunny day. State Senator Andy Harris led the list of GOP elected officials who were present, stopping by to enjoy our company between stops on a busy campaign schedule.

As part of that event, the silent auction raised over \$1,100 for the club and overall the event netted about 15% more than last year's did, even without increasing ticket prices. *(A list of those donating items to the silent auction can be found on Page 6.)*

This fundraising goes a long way to help the club elect more Republicans, not just this year but in the key local elections which will occur in 2010. In two years we'll have the opportunity to unseat the three local tax-and-spend Democrats (Rudy Cane, Norm Conway, and Jim Mathias) who

allegedly "represent" us in the General Assembly but who really get their marching orders from the Annapolis elites and not the citizens of their district. We can also put in a County Executive who's not antsy about eliminating the county's revenue cap and strengthen our majority on County Council.

Two Saturdays later, it was another gorgeous day for the Wicomico County McCain-Palin Rally (usually known as the "Picnic In The Park"), hosted by State Senator Lowell Stoltzfus. Over 300 people came to enjoy more great food, a live auction that netted nearly \$2,000, and a number of speakers to get the crowd going, including newly-elected Maryland Senate Minority Leader Allan Kittleman, his cohort and Congressional hopeful Andy Harris, and former candidate for Governor and Bush Administration official Ellen Sauerbrey, who served as the keynote speaker for the McCain-Palin campaign.

Picnickers had the chance to purchase McCain-Palin items and were encouraged to take one of the dozens of yard signs and bumper stickers that were on hand to show their support. The event fired up those in attendance and served to thank those who had already been volunteering for the McCain-Palin campaign.

Slots referendum dominate WCRC fall meetings

It was a busy summer after all for the club as we put our fundraising prowess to work for electing the McCain-Palin-Harris team. Aside from a reasonably large donation to the Harris campaign and helping to fund the McCain-Palin effort through the purchase of yard signs, bumper stickers, and other promotional items now available, the WCRC voted at its August meeting to financially backstop the rent and utilities needed to secure this year's headquarters location - a site that has increased our visibility from previous locations. It was an investment which hopefully will pay off in Andy Harris and John McCain carrying the Lower Shore, for none of the surrounding counties have a local headquarters - we stand alone in promoting the Republican ticket through an operations base.

In September, we heard from the first of two speakers regarding this year's Constitutional referendum (Question 2) on whether to allow state-run video slot machines at selected locations in Maryland as a supplement to education funding, among other items. Harry Shaw of Marylanders United to Stop Slots argued that slots wouldn't be the

financial panacea supporters make them out to be, nor would they provide any assistance for our current state budget shortfalls. Shaw also bemoaned the moral toll expanding gambling could bring as those who could least afford it throw their needed cash away on the slim chances of striking it rich.

Representing the pro-slots side (dubbed For Maryland - For Our Future) at our October meeting was Maryland Retailers Association head Tom Saquella. Much of his argument centered on the financial end of things, pointing out that the revenue would primarily go to education and help the state fully fund its obligations under the Thornton Commission. He also contended that the social ills predicted by opponents have not panned out in other states where slot machines have been legalized.

Both Shaw and Saquella had to deal with passionate questioners on both sides, suggesting that this is THE hot-button issue on the ballot.

While the club did not take a position on the issue, it bears noting for the record that the Wicomico County Republican Party's official stance is a NO vote on Question 2. They're joined by the Maryland House of Delegates Republican caucus. The Maryland Senate's Republican caucus chose to stay neutral about Question 2.

Campaign recap

Fifteen months ago, State Senator Andy Harris began his quest for the First Congressional District seat held for 18 years by incumbent GOP Congressman Wayne Gilchrest.

It's difficult to beat a Washington incumbent, but Andy's conservative message resonated with First District Republican voters and he shocked observers with a surprisingly large victory in the primary.

Now the deposed Gilchrest has endorsed Democrat Frank Kratovil in the race, reasoning that Frank would be a good *heir apparent* to Wayne. Add in the Beltway Democrats' huge monetary stake in the Kratovil campaign (nearly \$2 million for media alone) and it's obvious that Andy has a fight on his hands.

It goes without saying that a victory for Frank Kratovil will place someone in Congress who would align neatly with the far-left agenda promoted by Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, and Barack Obama. Worthy of note is that Kratovil has run his entire General Election campaign as a moderate "independent", shunning the Democrat label.

But Frank Kratovil was the point man for Martin O'Malley's 2006 campaign here on the Eastern Shore, and

O'Malley joined a number of Annapolis liberals who endorsed Frank in the primary. You hear none of that now, and Kratovil instead has ran on those issues where he is modestly right-of-center while regularly attempting to paint Harris as an extremist. Since when has Reagan conservatism been extreme?

Make no mistake, though, a Harris loss in this election will be a boost to Democrats - Andy is a guy Democrats fear in Washington because they know he'll fight tooth and nail against big government, just like he has in Annapolis. We need to assure Andy Harris a big win (especially here in Wicomico County) and send a clear message to liberals in both Annapolis and Washington that this is solid GOP country.

By that same token, John McCain also needs to come away with a big victory here. Obviously he has a huge uphill battle in Maryland, but our votes are still needed. And turnout is key: those on the other side who think they have things won may decide they have better things to do on Election Day than go vote. Plus it's a nice thumb in the eye to the media who's been in the tank for Obama all along.

So let's get out to the polls and see if we can make this hard work we've done be rewarded!

LSYR update

Thanks to Mark Biehl for supplying the information for this edition's update.

The Lower Shore Young Republican club (LSYR) is made up of men and women from the ages of 18 to 40 who believe in the Republican philosophy. The Young Republican club has not only been politically active since their inception in February 2008, but also strive to give back to the community.

The LSYR's were able to raise almost \$1,700.00 for the American Cancer Society at their annual Relay for Life event, and are currently planning an area-wide canned food drive as well as trying to get a trip planned to tour the White House during the holiday season.

The Lower Shore Young Republican Club meets the second Thursday of every month at various locations - their next one is slated for November 13th at Vinny's LaRoma Restaurant.

More often than not, the YR's serve as the base from where our future political leaders come. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about the club please email Mark Biehl at lowershoreyoungrepublicans@gmail.com.

Upcoming events

In an effort to get out the vote, beginning on Saturday, November 1st and culminating on the 4th, GOP headquarters will be hosting a GOTV effort each day - just drop by and you can help too. The Wicomico GOP will also be signwaving in front of headquarters along South Salisbury Boulevard on Saturday from 10 to 2.

Obviously November 4th is Election Day - we need all the votes we can get for John McCain and Andy Harris!

The next meeting for the WCRC will occur on Monday, November 24th. At press time we do not have a speaker yet, but the election results will surely be a topic of conversation, along with beginning to plan for 2009. It will be an off-year but look for those who wish to seek office in 2010 to start dropping by.

The WCRC Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 14th at the Elks Lodge in Salisbury, beginning at 5 p.m. As always we'll have good food, open bar, and fellowship for one low price. There will be no club meeting in December.

Our first meeting in 2009 will take place on Monday, January 26 when officers for 2009 will be nominated. The elections will be held at our February 23, 2009 meeting.

Thanklists

Contributors to the 2008 Crab Feast silent auction:

Mid-Shore Family YMCA, Salisbury, Senator Lowell Stoltzfus, Senator Richard Colburn, County Councilwoman Stevie Prettyman, Bill Coffin, County Councilwoman Gail Bartkovich, Vinny's LaRoma Restaurant, Back Street Grill, Carousel Resort Hotel, George Ossman, Dan Jenkins - Crazy Louie's Pawn Shops, Harris Market, Pat Miller, Bob Miller, Bob Yost, Woody Willing, Vernon Powell Shoes, Senator Andy Harris, Tom Hughes, Peninsula Roofing Company, Michael Swartz, Joyce Townsend, Judge Bill Smith, Betty Latourney, and Harborside - West Ocean City. Plus a thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it a successful event once again.

Workers at the Autumn Wine Festival:

Phil Adkins, Susan Drown, Sheila Fields, Clinton Foskey, Tom Hughes, Bob Miller, George Ossman, Michael Swartz, and Woody Willing.

Wicomico County Republican Club
P.O. Box 133
Salisbury, MD 21802