

# COUNTY COMMITTEE COURIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

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## SCAMARDELLA ELECTED NEW COUNTY CHAIR

**B**y a unanimous vote, Robert Scamardella was elected Chairman of the Richmond County Republican Committee at its recent Convention. Over 600 people attended the event on September 26th at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Scamardella was nominated by former Congressman Guy Molinari and it was Congressman Grimm who seconded the nomination. Outgoing Chairperson Mary Reilly presided over the election process.

In his inauguration speech, Mr. Scamardella struck on several themes. After thanking many, he referenced his relationship with Guy Molinari by noting that *“Guy will have the Chairman’s ear. The Chairman’s brain will be his own.”*

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Telling the County Committee that, *“We must be the change we wish to see in this nation,”* he also noted *“We must sail sometimes with the wind, sometimes against it - but sail we must and not drift nor lie at anchor.”*

He exhorted the Committee to *“... Do more than belong to this organization: Participate. Do more than care: Help. Do more then believe: Practice. Do more than dream: Work.”* In advocating unity, he remarked that, *“Coming together today is a beginning. Keeping together is progress, working together is success.”*

Calling for a *“grand Republican Renaissance,”* he advocated an organized outreach to conservative Democrats, Latinos, blacks, women and the young. Noting he is *“more about winning over than defeating someone,”* the new Chairman’s goal was to *“convince and not necessarily to conquer.”* He asked the committee to always act with *“integrity and sincerity”* stating that *“for me, politics is not about big money or power games, it is about improving people’s lives.”*

He then spoke about the great unifying principle of Republicanism stating that *“We believe the course to follow in taxation is not to destroy those who have achieved success but to create conditions under which everyone will have a better chance to be successful.”* He concluded by saying that *“I say to those members of the middle class and the poor that as we struggle to cure the illness that besets our economy, government spending and regulation is not the doctor, government spending and regulation is the disease and Republicanism is the cure.”*

After the convention, the packed house moved to an adjoining room for a reception that was attended by hundreds.

## AVERSA, GIOVINAZZO ELECTED VICE-CHAIRS

Pursuant to party bylaws, the County Committee elected two Vice-Chairpersons, one male and one female. At the recent Convention, Frank Aversa and Lisa Giovinazzo were unanimously elected for those posts.

Aversa is the owner of Aversa Brothers Construction, a national firm specializing in construction of food processing plants. A relative newcomer to party politics, Aversa has been a major organizer and fundraiser since late 2009. In speaking of his vision for the party Aversa said, *"It is time for us to usher in a new era, broadening our communications strategy in order to reach out to previously ignored voters to spread our message and inspire a new generation of Republicans."*

Giovinazzo is a former news anchor for Bloomberg News and NY1 and is now a practicing attorney. She has been involved in party politics for many years and was a former candidate for the NYC Council. In commenting on her election, Giovinazzo said, *"I have been heartened by the number of Republicans seeking to get involved in the process. The challenge is to harness this enthusiasm and commitment while turning it into victory for Republican candidates."*

Other officers elected by the County Committee were John Shall, CPA, Treasurer and Fran Gervasi, Secretary. The Committee also elected Zone Leaders and the Chairman announced his appointments. Also introduced at the convention were the District Leaders and State Delegates who were selected through the petition signature process. More about these folks in future issues.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE EXPANDED TO 636

### LAGAZZO, PAOLERCIO LAUDED FOR THEIR EFFORTS

The new party Chairman and his two Vice-Chairs formed a Political Action Committee (PAC) called the *"Staten Island Political Alliance"* with the express purpose of expanding and revitalizing the County Committee.

They raised money for the effort, secured a headquarters and equipment and went about the task of recruiting County Committee candidates. They came in droves from a coalition that included the Molinari Republican Club, the Tea Party, existing committee members and many from a bevy of elected officials. A few dozen came simply from reading about the effort in the newspaper.

The monumental effort involved coordinating hundreds of volunteers to *"walk"* Election Districts to secure the necessary signatures to gain County Committee status. The endeavor began in March when Scamardella announced his plans and reached its crescendo in June and July during the petition-gathering process. Said Scamardella, *"We were at headquarters from early morning to late at night for almost two months. There were many people who volunteered but I would be remiss if I didn't mention Lillian Lagazzo and Roseann Paolercio who practically lived at headquarters during the effort."* The quest ended with the County Convention on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ultimately, 636 people were qualified as County Committee members which more than doubled the existing Committee.

## DONOVAN CAMPAIGN IN STRETCH RUN

**W**ith Supreme Court Judge Candidate Joseph Maltese receiving a cross-endorsement, the only contested race this Election Day involves District Attorney Dan Donovan.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, we all go to the polls to vote in a very important election for Staten Islanders and the Republican Party. When Dan Donovan was elected District Attorney, eight years ago, he ended a 40 year run during which the Democrats held the office. The short term job of all County Committeepersons is to get out and vote for Dan Donovan and make sure all their family and friends do the same.

In seeking a third term, Donovan was denied the Conservative Party nomination for reasons that still confuse. No one has doubted Mr. Donovan's solid conservative credentials but, it seems, the fact that he disqualified himself from prosecuting a certain matter, involving a friend, caused the rebuke. Others see the disqualification as a mark of exceptional integrity.

Donovan's office has become a prosecutorial model as it boasts the highest felony conviction rate in New York City. Meanwhile, Staten Island has been named by the FBI as the safest community with a population between 450,000 and 500,000.

As stated, Mr. Donovan's integrity credentials are superlative. Quite simply, he is the perfect prosecutor and a man of whom Republicans can be very proud. The time for talk is ending. The time for action nears. Be sure to vote for this fine man and make sure your family and friends do likewise. Also we are need of Volunteers to help with the Get Out The Vote effort on Election Day. If you can volunteer, please contact Donovan Headquarters at 917-474-4136.

## ABOUT THE COURIER

**T**his newsletter, The County Committee Courier (CCC), is intended to keep County Committee persons informed about relevant committee and political news. It will be published and distributed quarterly in October, January, April and July. Initially, it will be sent by snail mail. Our goal would be to send it electronically beginning with the 5<sup>th</sup> issue next October.

In this connection enclosed is a list of County Committee persons for whom we do not have an e-mail address. All persons on the list are asked to call Committee Secretary Fran Gervasi at 718-442-0900 and advise her of your e-mail address. Your anticipated cooperation is appreciated.

### CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

## THE DEMOCRATS ARE COMING!

**T**hey're coming after us with everything they've got.

Progressive Democrats (we used to call them Liberals) have made it clear they will present a well-funded and unified effort to retain the Presidency and Senate, while taking back the House of Representatives. In a recent e-mail to supporters, Nancy Pelosi said: *"Just over two weeks from now, we'll be one year out from the 2012 election. The (money we contribute) today will help determine how many Tea Party Republicans we can afford to target for defeat in 2012. Many districts are held by Republicans who voted to destroy Medicare to fund tax cuts for big oil and billionaires. With just 25 Republican-held seats between us and a Democratic majority, (we have taken) a giant step down the path to victory in 2012."*

Ms. Pelosi's Democratic National Committee (DNC) has targeted, among other seats, that of our Congressman, Michael Grimm. They trumpet that the Obama campaign will have a record *one billion dollar* war chest. A recent visit to the DNC website sports a headline that reads, "***Romney's Out Of Touch Policy Plans.***" They are already on the attack and they are deadly serious - they want to advance, not retreat.

In the face of this determined and opulently-financed effort, we Republicans have yet to rally our forces and coalesce behind a single candidate. This is both understandable - given the size and diversity of the primary field - and perilous. Locally, Presidential preference has been varied. Former Borough President Guy Molinari and Congressman Grimm have expressed early support for Mitt Romney. Other Island Republicans back Herman Cain, while others prefer the candidacies of Gingrich, Perry or Bachman. A small, but vocal "Libertarian" group on the Island is wedded to the candidacy of Ron Paul.

Although the Party leadership can never be all things to all people, we will always respect diversity of viewpoints. I always urge you to express your opinion. But please remember that we are a family of Republicans, a committed group who share Republican ideals. Our goal is to build - not tear down.

By all means, make your case for your candidate. Currently, I haven't made up my mind and, as a member of this family of Republicans, as Chairman, it is important for me not to publicly tear down the opinions of my fellow committee-people, and I will refrain from doing so. I hope all will take the same attitude.

When the time comes, I will be robust in the support of my candidate. I'll make the case for the man or woman I prefer but my voice will be raised in praise of my candidate, not in condemnation of anyone else's Republican choice.

Remember Reagan's 11<sup>th</sup> commandment? "***Thou shalt not attack fellow Republicans!***" he said. He never meant that we couldn't criticize - certainly we can do that, but I think he meant that we should do so constructively. We live in the same Republican house; it does none of us any good to burn it down.

Our goal, when we started our quest to re-energize this committee, was to bring new faces with new ideas and a strong commitment to work for and contribute to the party; to give our party a new start; to become a unified force working to advance Republican ideals while respecting the diversity of Republican opinion.

We, every one of us, have different priorities and sensibilities - all of which shape our personal picture of the ideal candidate. I'm sure that all of us share a common goal, too, of making sure that Barack Obama is a one-term President. On this issue we can *never* be too partisan.

Nothing is new here. In every Presidential cycle many candidates emerge. Different people back different candidates at different times and for different reasons. The fact that we may be at odds during the presidential primaries, although arguably divisive, can be a good thing. It helps to vet candidates, gives them exposure and gives us all a chance to push our views.

However, it does seem that the sooner Republicans coalesce behind a single candidate, the better able we will be to mount our defense against the Obama/Pelosi onslaught that is sure to come.

What is essential is that, when a candidate is chosen, he or she become "***our candidate,***" and that we fashion a strong counter-offense to the relentless Democratic charge that will be bearing down on us. If we fail to unify, we will be making life much easier for Nancy Pelosi, while permitting her to move a step closer to again setting our national legislative agenda.

At the end of the day, we must be able to work together as friends or perish together as fools.