

COUNTY COMMITTEE COURIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Summer 2012

2012 REPUBLICAN SLATE SET 3 INCUMBENTS, 4 CHALLENGERS TO FACE VOTERS IN NOVEMBER

In May, the Party held its nominating convention for State candidates. Over 300 County Committee members approved a slate of six candidates. In March, the Committee had re-nominated Michael Grimm for Congress. The full seven-candidate slate is the largest contingent put forth by the Party in recent memory. The Candidates are:

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Congress - Michael Grimm

Congressman Grimm was first elected in 2010. The former combat veteran and FBI agent is both a lawyer and accountant. Rep. Grimm serves on the House Financial Services Committee, Co-Chairs the House Republican Israel Caucus, and is the Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee's Task Force on Foreign Policy. He is single and resides in New Springville.

State Senate - Andrew Lanza

Senator Lanza was elected to represent Staten Island's 24th New York State Senate District in 2006. He is seeking re-election. Senator Lanza, a lawyer, currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Cities Committee and Co-Chair of both the Senate Ethics Committee and the Legislative Ethics Commission. Senator Lanza and his wife Marcele, a NYC Public School teacher, have three children, Olivia, Abigail and Andrew. They reside in Great Kills.

Assembly - Nicole Malliotakis

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis has served in the State Assembly since 2010. She also seeks re-election. Nicole holds a BA from Seton Hall and an MBA from Wagner College. She has served as the Staten Island liaison for the late Senator John Marchi and Governor George Pataki. The former governmental affairs officer with Con Ed is single and resides in Rosebank.

State Senate - Lisa Grey

Lisa Grey is a former prosecutor with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office. She is currently engaged in the private practice of law and is running for State Senator in the 23rd Senate District. Lisa is married to Tim Grey, an NYPD Detective, and they reside in Richmondtown.

Assembly - Paul Saryian

Paul Saryian is a retired NYPD captain. He is running for Assembly in the 61st Assembly District. In 2004, on leave from the NYPD, Paul worked in Iraq as a police liaison officer. His mission was to recruit and train Iraqi police

officers in methods of fighting terrorism. Paul is single and resides in West Brighton.

Assembly - Sam Pirozzolo

Sam Pirozzolo, an optician, is a small business owner and also serves as the President of the local school board. Sam has been very active in advocating for educational issues. He is running for Assembly in the 63rd Assembly District. He resides in Westerleigh with his wife, Priscilla, and their two children, Samantha and Franklin.

Assembly - Joseph Borelli

Joseph Borelli is the Chief of Staff to New York City Councilman Vincent Ignizio. Joe has a BA from Marist College and an MA from the College of Staten Island. Joe is a member of the Staten Island Growth Management Task Force, the West Shore Light Rail Task Force and the Brookfield Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee. He is single and resides in Annadale.



KING KOVAC!

JOE KOVAC TOPS WALKERS

WITH 474 SIGNATURES

The party recently gathered 6,265 signatures to get its six state candidates on the ballot. Over 200 volunteers were used to amass these numbers. This effort comes on the heels of the Party's project in March which garnered 4,255 signatures for Congressman Grimm. Despite the double duty, the Party faithful came through in a big way again.

Leading the pack was Joe Kovac. The man was a walking machine and, when all was said and done, he brought in 474 signatures. Nothing stopped him - not heat - not rain and not "tough" neighborhoods.

Defending champ, Bob McFeeley, finished second, this time with 346 signatures (126 behind Kovac). Finishing 3rd was a veritable new comer, Joe Russo. Joe gathered a whopping 266 signatures and thrust himself into the echelon of the Party's best walkers. The top three guys procured 1,086 signatures or 17.5% of the total.

Walking legend, Annette Battista, was 4th with 211 signatures which she procured while recuperating from pneumonia! Norman Light was

5th with 121 signatures. Rounding out the prestigious TOP TEN were Colleen Donnelly 6th (114), Steve Ballew 7th (101), Elizabeth Kain and Louis Savarese 8th (96), Angela Olsen and Art Cappabianca 9th (92) and David Ceder 10th (90).

Said Party Chair Bob Scamardella, "*All of the volunteers did a magnificent job. I, and each candidate, thank them immensely for their efforts. As far as the top ten are concerned, we will recognize them in an appropriate way at a future event.*"



LOCAL GROUP TO REPRESENT ISLAND AT CONVENTION

Staten Island will be represented at the Republican National Convention. The Convention will be held in late August in Tampa, Florida.

Leading the Island Delegation will be Party Chairman Robert Scamardella. He will be joined by Assemblyman Lou Tobacco and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis. State Senate candidate Lisa Grey and Party Vice-Chair Frank Aversa are also part of the Island delegation.

Said Ms. Grey, "*I supported Governor Romney from the beginning and I am thrilled to be a delegate to the convention that will see him become our Party's presidential nominee.*" Frank Aversa noted, "*I've never been to a National Convention and I expect it to be thrilling and educational.*" Finally, the Chairman commented, "*It is exciting to know that we will all play a role in not only nominating our Party's Presidential and Vice-presidential candidates but we will also have some say in platform adoption while having the opportunity to do some networking with folks from around the country.*"

The Delegation is leaving for Tampa on August 26th and returning to Staten Island on August 31st.



WENDY LONG GETS REPUBLICAN NOD FOR U.S. SENATE SEAT

Democratic Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has been named the most liberal Senator in Congress. Fresh off a convincing Primary victory, Republican Wendy Long will face off against Senator Gillibrand in the November election. Ms. Long also has the Conservative Party endorsement.

Ms. Long is a graduate of Dartmouth University and received her Law Degree from Northwestern University. She served as a law clerk to Judge Ralph K. Winter of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York, and then to Justice Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court of the United States. She practiced law with Kirkland & Ellis, LLP, becoming a litigation partner in New York City. She left private practice to build the Judicial Confirmation Network (now the Judicial Crisis Network), to promote public education about the proper role of the judiciary under the American Constitution and to win U.S. Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justices and other federal judges with a record of judicial restraint and respect for the Constitution, including Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito.

Wendy lives in Manhattan with her husband, Arthur, where they are raising their two children, Arthur and Mado.



VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Democratic Party is boasting about its ability to put *“volunteer boots on the ground.”* They claim that they are the energized party and that it is a strong volunteer network that will keep Barak Obama in the White House.

Do you think it's time that Barak Obama is defeated and that the liberal agenda that he has put in place be stopped? We cannot do it by voting alone. We cannot do it by talking politics at the

“water cooler.” We cannot do it by watching Fox News. We CAN do it by volunteering and working for Republican victories.

We urge you to volunteer today. Don't be reluctant because you *“don't have that much time.”*

If you can give the Party one hour of volunteer work from now until Election Day, we will take it. Some will do just that. Others will give a couple of hours a week. Others will do more. We will take whatever you can give. We need folks to make phone calls, help with literature drops, stuff envelopes, put up lawn signs, answer phone calls, attend rallies etc.

If you are interested in helping, you can sign up on the party's website (SIGOP.com) or if you want more information simply e-mail the Chairman at RScamardella@sigop.com.

C'mon, get involved. It's fun and you will meet many like-minded folks while playing a direct role in a huge Republican victory in November as we send Barak Obama back to Chicago.



REDISTRICTING MEANS LESS ELECTION DISTRICTS

As part of the recent redistricting of Congressional, State Senate and State Assembly Districts, the Board of Elections also redistricted so-called *“election districts.”*

An election district is that geographical area for which there is a poll site. It is also the area on which the make-up of the County Committee is based. Current Party Bylaws permit two County Committee persons per election district.

The Board of Elections, in an effort to save money, has increased the size of all election districts. That means the BOE needs to operate less poll sites. On Staten Island about 80 Election Districts were eliminated. This could cause the party to lose 160 Committee persons in 2013 when Committee reorganization takes place.

Said the Chairman, *“Right after Election Day I will empanel a subcommittee to study options we might have to amend our Bylaws to permit us to increase the number of County*

Committee slots. I really want to avoid a situation where we have to tell committed people that there is no longer room for them on the County Committee.”



Chairman's Chatter

TIME TO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS

President Obama made a comment that highlights the importance of the 2012 Election.

America is a meritocracy where hard work and risk-taking leads to success. Obama dismissed “*merit*” and advocates a society where wealth is redistributed by the government.

The President actually said, “*If you got a business you didn’t build that. Somebody else made that happen.*” Coming from a President, this statement is as dangerous as it is foolish. Let me count the ways.

First, it omits acknowledgement of the risk element in business. Does the President care that 60% of all businesses fail within 6 years, causing economic ruin? How come the President’s “*somebody*” doesn’t help those business failures?

Let’s try and identify the President’s “*somebody.*” The best the President does is to mention “*a teacher*” and those who “*build roads and bridges.*” Is he kidding? I had a pretty good 3rd grade teacher. A couple of successful business people came out of that class. So did a guy who overdosed on heroin at 19 and two others who “*partied*” their way through high school winding up on public assistance. Why didn’t the teacher “*help*” them?

As for roads and bridges, show me a business person who hasn’t paid taxes to the gills to pay for such infrastructure. Business people are not “*helped*” by things they pay for.

Of course everyone was helped by someone. The President, while preening about his own intelligence, simply stated an obvious fact. Heck, we all have had mothers. Without their nurturing, who among us would still be here? However, to use this notion as a reason to advocate government confiscation of property is inane.

It is also an attack on the middle class that the Democrats hypocritically claim to champion.

The small business owner built and sustains the middle class. Having the option to start a business is a way to achieve financial independence. There have been over 500,000 new startup businesses a year and small businesses employ more than 50% of all private sector workers. Without small business there is no middle class.

Maligning small businesses, while increasing their taxes and fees has been the policy of the Democrats. Obama has made it the guiding principle of his Administration.

The President not only mocks American entrepreneurs but he insures the economic malaise of inner city blacks. Ever notice that small businesses in the black community are not owned by persons of color? Leaders like Barak Obama have constantly preached that upward mobility for blacks can only come from government entitlements and government jobs. Black leadership has never made any concerted attempt to increase black entrepreneurship. That has been a big mistake that was just compounded by the President’s nonsensical remarks.

Economic growth will only be created by risk taking and investment. By castigating those who sweat and labor to maintain a business, the President insured that economic growth will not occur while he occupies the White House.

For Republicans, the challenge could not be more important. Election Day is approaching. It’s time to take care of business.



GOP & THE ELEPHANT

The Republican Party is sometimes referred to as the “*GOP*” and depicted as an elephant. Ever wonder about the origin of these representations?

The GOP is an acronym for Gallant Old Party which the Republican Party was called after the Union’s victory in the Civil War. “Gallant” morphed into “*Grand.*” Before long, the “*Grand Old Party*” was simply referred to as the “*GOP.*” Political cartoonist, Thomas Nast, was responsible for the elephant. In an 1874 Harper’s Weekly cartoon, Nast drew animals at the zoo. One of those animals, the elephant, was labeled “*The Republican Vote.*” Thereafter, the elephant became associated with the Republican Party.