

COUNTY COMMITTEE COURIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

Winter 2011

HOME SWEET HOME

PARTY ESTABLISHES NEW HEADQUARTERS

For years, the Republican Party had been effectively without a physical full-time headquarters on Staten Island. Those days are over. The Party has a new home.

Recently, the Party negotiated a lease for a spacious office at 2300 Richmond Road. Said Vice-Chair Frank Aversa, who is overseeing the HQ preparation, *"We will now have a place to conduct Party business and where volunteers can congregate. It will help us bring the Party together and further our mission to grow the Party and elect Republican candidates."*

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The Party will take possession on Feb 1st and, after a few weeks of renovations and placement of signage, a grand opening will be held. Of course, all County Committee people will be invited to stop by and examine **THEIR** new home.

Said Party Chair Scamardella, *"This completes the trifecta which was my first 100 days goal. We needed a newsletter, a website and a headquarters and now we have them. These were not ends themselves but means to fulfill our mission. Now we have the tools to get the job done."*

PARTY PONDERINGS ... In addition to opening a headquarters, the Party will be launching its official website on or about February 1st ... Check it out at SIGOP.com ... The former Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Vice-President Dick Cheney visited Staten Island recently ... Brendan Lantry, a long-time Party worker resigned as the Party's Campaign Coordinator assuming the position of Assistant D.A. in Kings County ... David Carr was named new Campaign Coordinator and given a seat on the Party's Executive Committee ... Chairman Scamardella recently met with three candidates seeking to challenge U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

REPUBLICANS GRIMM, LANZA, TOBACCO & MALLIOTAKIS UP FOR RE-ELECTION

It's not easy to be a Congressman or member of the State Legislature. In addition to repeated trips to Washington or Albany, these folks must undergo all the burdens of being a legislator. They must attend legislative sessions, draft and review legislation, stay on top of all issues and respond to constituent complaints while attending almost daily events in their districts.

On top of this heavy workload, they must suffer the weight of a short 2-year term. Every 24 months they must bear the grueling prospect of running for re-election. For Congressman Michael Grimm, State Senator Andrew Lanza, Assemblyman Lou Tobacco and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, 2012 is again campaign time.

Grimm and Malliotakis figure to have spirited opposition. Liberal Democrats, stung by the victories of these two bright Republican stars against Democratic incumbents in 2010, are hard driven to recruit strong opposition candidates.

Meanwhile, Democrats have vowed to unseat long-time incumbents Lanza and Tobacco. Lanza has vast Senate experience and his re-election is vital to maintaining a Republican majority in that body. Tobacco is a well-respected member of the Republican's growing representation in the State Assembly. His zealous advocacy, on behalf of conservative principles and Staten Island, has earned him the enmity of super-liberal Sheldon Silver.

Each of these exceptional public servants will be soon putting together their campaign teams and we will be contacting all County Committee members to ask for your involvement in one or more of these campaigns to help get these fine people re-elected.

CALLING ALL CANDIDATES CHALLENGERS SOUGHT AGAINST DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENTS

Three Democratic incumbents are up for re-election in 2012. They included State Senator Diane Savino and Assemblymen Michael Cusick and Matthew Titone. In 2010, each of these three Democrats ran unopposed. This time a strong effort is being made to recruit challengers to these long-time liberal Legislators.

Ms. Savino, a former union official, enjoys much union support and is in what is considered a firm Democratic district. Titone, too, is in a so-called "*safe Democratic area.*" Cusick is in a

"*swing*" district but expects to receive strong support from his mentors Sen. Chuck Schumer and Assembly leader Shelly Silver.

Said Party Chair Robert Scamardella, "*We have recently begun the process of actively recruiting candidates for the three open slots. I encourage anyone interested to contact me. Our process will be open and fair as we seek the most qualified candidates.*"

Although it is rare to see Staten Island incumbents lose an election, the victories of Nicole Malliotakis and Michael Grimm should give any would-be candidate encouragement that, indeed, it can be done. Both Malliotakis and Grimm were unknowns with virtually no name recognition and were both outspent by strong incumbents. Many contend that Staten Island is turning Republican more each day and that so called DINO'S (Democrats In Name Only) are also on the rise.

Political guru Guy Molinari noted, "*Articulate principled candidates willing to work real hard are what is needed. Political upsets are becoming more the norm than the exception. Just look at Grimm, Malliotakis, Turner and even Obama.*"

Candidate Applications can be procured by contacting the Party secretary, Fran Gervasi, at 718-442-0900.

DONOVAN WINS IN LANDSLIDE COPS 3RD TERM WITH 70% OF VOTE

Island Republicans gear for the 2012 elections with the wind at their backs. Dan Donovan won a resounding victory this past November to secure a third term as Richmond County District Attorney.

Donovan, who was denied the Conservative Party ballot position, won an astounding victory with 70% of the vote against challenger Mike Ryan. Donovan actually won by a bigger margin than he did in 2007 when he had the Conservative endorsement.

At his victory celebration, held at the Hilton Garden Inn and sponsored by the Party,

Donovan thanked a coterie of people to resounding cheers. Said Party Chair Scamardella, *"It was great to start my tenure with such a resounding victory but the real thanks goes to many on the County Committee and Campaign Administrator Ron Carara along with the legions of volunteers. It's a wonderful feeling going to a campaign headquarters and seeing a bustling place filled with wonderful people working hard for an exceptional man."*

Along with Donovan, Republican Joseph Maltese won a 14-year term as a Supreme Court Judge. Maltese was cross-endorsed by the Democratic, Independent and Conservative Parties.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

A LESSON IN POLITICAL CONFUSION

Normally the New York primary is held in September and all elected officials know the exact boundaries of their districts. Not so in 2012.

First, it is a *"re-districting"* year and, since the US Constitution requires a population census every 10 years, followed by a change in election districts to accommodate population shifts, the boundaries of 2012 districts are unknown as of this writing. Those districts' lines will be fixed by the State Senate and Assembly subject to court oversight. Exactly when the process will be complete is unknown and, as the election year drones on, the uncertainty causes all sorts of problems with political planning.

As if this uncertainty was not enough, the date for the New York Primary is still unknown. (This does not refer to the *"Presidential"* Primary which is scheduled for April 24th.). The normal September date was knocked down by the courts on the grounds that it was too close to the general election and did not afford military personnel serving overseas sufficient time to mail in absentee ballots. As a result, the primary must be held before August 18th. Seems some want the

primary to be held in early August and others in June. If June is the date, the petition signature gathering process will have to begin in March. This uncertainty wreaks havoc on prospective planning for both candidates and Party organizers.

The fact that all of this ambiguity is occurring in a very busy political year that includes a Presidential, Congressional, 2 State Senate and 4 State Assembly races just adds to the anxiety. Said Party Chair Scamardella, *"I know I sound like Yogi Berra but, it is what it is and I just wish I knew what it is."*

GIOVINAZZO & STILWELL TO CHAIR LINCOLN DINNER MAIN PARTY EVENT SLATED FOR APRIL 30th AT HILTON

The main Party fundraising event is the so-called *"Lincoln Dinner."* This year the event will be held on Monday night April 30th at the Hilton Garden Inn. Please save the date.

The event is being chaired by Party Vice-Chairwoman Lisa Giovinazzo and County Committee woman Dr. Anne Marie Stilwell. They have put together an impressive Committee of 26 County Committee persons. Party Vice-Chairman Frank Aversa, County Committeeman John Scamardella and Finance Committee Chair Philip Rampulla are coordinating the souvenir journal.

Currently, the Lincoln Committee, among other things, is working on procurement of a guest speaker and other items. Said Ms. Giovinazzo, *"The Lincoln Dinner is not only a fundraiser but what we hope will be a dynamic evening. Success depends upon the participation of the County Committee. We are confident that this year's Dinner will be a stellar event while helping to facilitate the financial needs of the Party for the year to come."* Said Dr. Stilwell, *"I'm honored to Co-Chair this prestigious event and I look*

forward to working with Lisa and the Committee to insure a very successful affair.”

AVERSA, MC FEELEY & COPPOTELLI TO SPEARHEAD PETITION SIGNATURE EFFORT

The County Committee will be meeting sometime this spring to vote on Party nominations. Thereafter, it is essential that the Party “*qualify*” each of their nominees for a ballot position. In order to do so, each candidate nominated must secure a certain number of “*petition signatures*” from registered Republicans in their respective districts.

This is a time-consuming and exacting endeavor. If not done properly, a candidacy can be “*challenged*” and, if the challenge is successful, a candidate will not appear on the ballot.

Party Vice-Chairman Frank Aversa will oversee the 2012 petition effort. His main “*administrators*” will be 60th Assembly District Leader Michael Coppotelli and 62nd Assembly District Zone Leader Robert McFeeley.

Once a primary date is established, the petition gathering timeframe will be known and all County Committee people will be contacted to help in this effort by procuring signatures in their respective Election Districts.

The signature effort will be run out of new Party headquarters. Stay tuned.

President’s Message

HELP ME IF YOU CAN!

It has been a real whirlwind since I assumed the Chairmanship of the Party last September. During the last 100 days, we have started this newsletter, are about to get a first rate website up and running, held a successful fundraiser highlighted by Vice-President Dick Cheney, got a new Party headquarters, traveled to Albany to interact with Party leaders state-wide, created a dynamic Executive Committee meeting regularly and working hard.

In order to keep the momentum going, much help from the County Committee will be needed. You all will shortly be contacted to help out. Fundamentally, we will need help at Party Headquarters and in individual candidate campaigns. Initially, we require County Committee people to just “*walk*” their Election Districts and solicit registered Republicans to sign petitions supporting Republican candidates. Each County Committee person will be furnished with a “*walking list*” of registered Republicans in their district along with the petitions. These items will be picked up and, after completion, dropped off at headquarters.

Thereafter, we will need volunteers to make phone calls, stuff envelopes, help with literature drops, etc. We will also ask some folks to simply volunteer at headquarters to keep it open, answer phones and to sign up volunteers and those who stop by to register to vote. We also are planning a huge voter registration drive for the late spring for which we can use some assistance.

I realize this may all sound confusing to some and perhaps a little overwhelming. It is not. Please remember we will take whatever you give us. If it’s, say, three hours a month, it is helpful indeed. You set your hours. You select the area in which you feel you can help.

I promise that you will find the experience fun and rewarding and I guarantee that you will meet some very fine people. After all they are Republican! Ask around. So many people have made lifelong friendships through interaction as Party volunteers.

Never has an election been as important as 2012. Whether this country remains a liberated free-market constitutional republic or a European style restrictive socialist democracy hangs in the balance. Stopping the takeover of our lives by Obama Liberalism will not be accomplished by chatter at cocktail parties or Facebook posts. It will be accomplished by on-the-ground grass roots volunteer work.

I pledge that I, and the Executive Committee of the Party, as volunteers, will give the effort our all and we will work tirelessly to achieve victory in 2012. Please, when we contact you, help us if you can.