

# The WCYR Advocate

## Williamson County Young Republicans

March, 2004

Joshua Edlin, editor

### Officers

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### Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2004  
Executive Meeting: 6:00 PM  
General Meeting: 6:30 PM  
Location: Cool Springs Logan's  
Speaker: TBA

### Announcements

- Social Chairman Todd Lewis invites all Williamson County YRs for a night out to a Predators game, March 23. Tickets are \$15 in advance. Please contact Todd at [tlewis@realtracs.com](mailto:tlewis@realtracs.com) for information.
- The rechartering for the state Young Republicans is March 20 in the Senate chambers of the Capitol. Tre Hargett will be treating attendees to lunch afterwards. All YR members are invited at no cost. To be counted in the rechartering, please pay your dues by March 20.
- The Williamson County Republican Career Women have invited all WCYR members to their meeting on April 6. It will be at Brentwood Pointe II beginning at 7:00 PM.

### WCYR Constitution Ratified

On March 9, 2004, the Williamson County Young Republican membership voted to ratify a new Constitution. The chapter has operated without a Constitution for several years, and several abortive attempts have been made. Finally, under Brandon Ryan's chairmanship, Chris Huskey was appointed to lead the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Through tireless effort, Chris drafted a Constitution, and the Executive Committee approved it last summer. With WCYR's involvement in last year's state YR convention, the ratification was delayed. Brought back before the membership this month, the Constitution was unanimously approved.

When asked about the accomplishment, Brandon Ryan was ecstatic. "The passage of the Constitution signifies a very important step in our process of having a credible organization within not only the Young Republican Federation, but also within the Republican Party itself. We hope this propels us that much further into a leadership role within the State of Tennessee."♦

### A Letter from the Chairman

Dear YRs and Conservative Readers,

It has been a very hectic month, with things only getting busier and busier in the days and months leading up to the 2004 Presidential Election. With so much at stake during this year's election (The White House, Congress and the Tennessee State Legislature all hang in the balance), the Williamson County Young Republicans have decided to step-up our efforts to ensure a brighter future for our State. At this month's meeting at Logan's Roadhouse, we enacted a list of goals for 2004 -- all of which work to see that President Bush is re-elected to a second term and that Republicans seize control of the State Legislature.

Some of these goals require us as a club to put "our money where our mouths are", as the ol' saying goes. Not only have we pledged to give more money to contested Races around Tennessee, but also to give more of our time. It's something that seems to be a rare commodity these days as many YRs are busy trying to raise young families and starting successful careers. But as an organization, we believe this upcoming election is just that important. One way we are helping to "Get Out the Vote" is by hosting a Voter Registration Booth at the Main Street Festival in Franklin during the month of April.

In addition to all of this, here are a few of our other goals for 2004:

- Increase membership to 75 Members
- Encourage 75% of YRs to become Registered Republicans with the Senior Party in Williamson County
- Increase Political Contributions by \$1,000.00
- Establish a Mission Statement
- Actively involve at least one YR in each of the races impacting Williamson County (Presidential, Congressional, and Legislative)

But we are not all work and no play. Under the new leadership of Social Chairman Todd Lewis, we are planning quarterly social events for all YRs. The first of which is the Second Annual Williamson County YR Night with the Nashville Predators. On March 23, the YRs will cheer on the Preds as they push for their first play-off berth. Another event that is under development is our First Annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser. We hope to eat some great Cajun food and hear from a few of our local candidates (and raise some money!) in early summer.

As you can see, we are a very vibrant group of conservatives who could use all of the help we can get this election year. If you are interested in joining, or know someone who would make a strong member, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

God Bless,  
Brandon Ryan

## Upcoming Events

Mar 20	State YR Rechartering
Mar 23	WCYR Hockey Night
Apr 6	Republican Career Women's meeting
Apr 13	April YR Meeting

## Service Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for the following duties / events:

- WCYR has agreed to man the voter registration booth at the Franklin Main Street Festival April 24-25. Please contact Brandon Ryan to volunteer.
- Volunteers are needed to help paint the senior party headquarters. Please contact Kimberly Miller at km1207@hotmail.com to volunteer.

Along with the election of officers for 2004, the appointed positions need to be filled. If you have an interest in any of the following positions, please contact Brandon Ryan.

- Fund-Raiser Chairman
- State Party Liaison
- Liaison to U.S. Senator Frist
- Liaison to U.S. Senator Alexander
- Liaison to U.S. Congressman Blackburn
- Liaison to State Representative Casada
- Liaison to State Representative Sargent
- Media Chairman
- Constitution and By-Laws Chairman

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### 150 Years of the Republican Party

#### Part I

By Josh Edlin

In 1854, the Republican party first came together in a series of state conventions. Anti-slavery served as the core of the party platform. To draw voters from the rival Know-Nothing party, the Republicans added anti-immigration to their platform. The gambit worked, and the Republicans entered the 1856 Presidential campaign with John C. Fremont, a famous western explorer. Fremont won 33% of the popular vote and 38% of the electoral college. The Republicans had emerged as the primary contender to the Democratic party.

By 1860, the northern Democrats and the southern Democrats had diverged, and each ran its own candidate. As a result, Abraham Lincoln won the Presidency for the Republicans. Celebration was short, as the southern Democrats effected the Southern secession, and the long-delayed Civil War was at hand.

Under Lincoln's leadership, the Union fought against the secession, and after a long and bitter fight, the union was preserved and slavery was destroyed. In only 11 years, the Republican party had accomplished its primary goal. The Republican congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Fourteenth Amendment, but with the abolition of slavery, support had dwindled, and the party dropped civil rights from the platform after 1875.

After Lincoln's assassination, vice president Andrew Johnson assumed the Presidency. Sympathetic to the south, Johnson resisted the Republican agenda for reconstruction. Constantly thwarted by the President, Congress soon set him up for a fall. In 1867, they passed legislation requiring the President to obtain Senate approval before dismissing any cabinet member. Johnson, sure that the legislation was unconstitutional, immediately fired his Secretary of War, and Congress promptly impeached him. Johnson escaped conviction by a narrow vote, and the law was indeed found unconstitutional some time later.

Reconstruction ended under Ulysses S. Grant's administration. With no dominant social issue at hand, economic policy emerged as the defining issue for the rest of the century. Advocating a policy of protectionism, Republicans won six of the remaining eight elections of the 19th century. During this period, the Republican party earned a reputation as the party of big business, due to their economic policies, and the party of big government, due to their internal improvement programs.

American politics began to change with the election of Republican candidate William McKinley in 1896. When Cuba rebelled against Spain, the United States joined the fight, determined to help Cuba win independence. The fight did not stop there, however. By the end of the Spanish-American War, the U.S. had gained control of the Phillipines, Puerto Rico, and Guam. McKinley clearly intended for America to become an Imperial power. His views were not widely supported, and later Presidents did not pursue this policy.

McKinley was assassinated in 1901, and Theodore Roosevelt became President. Roosevelt favored more government regulation, stricter anti-trust legislation, and more social programs. In this atmosphere, the party split. A progressive faction, led by Robert La Follette, favored Roosevelt's policies, while a conservative faction, led by Speaker of the House "Uncle" Joe Cannon, reflected the values of the majority of Republicans. Responding to what they perceived as an assault upon business and sound economics, the conservative faction began to embrace the long-time Democratic platform of states' rights and smaller government.

In 1908, Roosevelt declined to run again, and pushed for the nomination of William Howard Taft, who he believed would continue his policies. Taft won the Presidency, but favored the conservative faction of the party. In 1912, after four years of Taft's conservative policies, Roosevelt was ready to re-enter the fray. Failing to muscle Taft out of the nomination, he founded the Progressive Party, and entered the Presidential race. Fed up with the Republican infighting, the public voted for the Democratic candidate, Woodrow Wilson, and after 16 years in the Presidency, the Republicans were out.

By the end of Wilson's administration, Roosevelt had died, the Progressive Party had dissolved, and Wilson had steered the Democrat party on the course of progressivism. While a small progressive faction remained, the Republican party had become the conservative party it remains today.♦