

The WCYR Advocate

Williamson County Young Republicans

April, 2004

Joshua Edlin, editor

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2004
Executive Meeting: 6:00 PM
General Meeting: 6:30 PM
Location: Cool Springs Logan's
Speaker: State Senator Jim Bryson

Announcements

- Just Desserts will be held on May 20, 2004 in Jamison Hall at The Factory in Franklin. Call WCRP for more information.

5:30 Social
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Auction of Desserts
- The Williamson County YRs are running a voter registration booth for the Franklin Main Street Festival. The booth will be located in front of the Republican Party Headquarters.
- Williamson County YRs rechartered with 68 members. While not as many as Shelby County this year, we definitely have one of the largest and most active YR clubs in Tennessee.

Williamson County Recharters with 68

On March 20, representatives from Young Republican chapters across the state convened for rechartering. Eight chapters rechartered, with another six chapters due to recharter at a later date. With the eight chapters, approximately 240 members have been counted across the state.

Williamson County rechartered with 68 members, slightly down from last year's membership. For the first time in several years, Shelby County rechartered with more members than Williamson, adding more fuel to the rivalry over membership levels. Regaining our standing as the state's largest chapter stands as an unspoken challenge for next year's rechartering.

Since 1989, all Tennessee Young Republican chapters are required to recharter with the state organization annually per the Tennessee Young Republican Federation (TYRF) constitution. Each chapter pays dues to the state organization, announces their membership, and submits their bylaws and constitution. The purpose of rechartering is to raise funds for TYRF and acknowledge those chapters which are actively recruiting. Rechartering allows Tennessee's YR chapters to operate under one unifying organization, rather than as a loose confederation of clubs. ♦

Brandon Ryan speaks at the rechartering meeting as State Chairman Mark Green looks on.



150 Years of the Republican Party

Part 2

By Josh Edlin

Under Woodrow Wilson's administration, the federal government had swollen, taxes had ballooned, and despite Wilson's campaign motto "He Kept Us Out of War", the country had been dragged into World War I. Republican candidate Warren G. Harding won the 1920 Presidential election in a landslide. Under Republican Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover, five separate tax cuts were instituted, and the economy flourished. Unfortunately, the economy crashed in 1929, with President Herbert Hoover taking the blame. Hoover instituted several of the policies that FDR would later endorse, but the damage was done. In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt swept into the White House and began a twenty year period of Democratic dominance.

Roosevelt advanced and refined the progressive agenda begun under Wilson. Government programs blossomed, possibly extending the depression, but largely credited with conquering it. Without prominent candidates, the Republicans had no hope of unseating the popular Roosevelt. For the first time in history, a President was elected to a third term and then a fourth. Roosevelt finally died in office, leaving Truman to succeed him.

Upcoming Events

- Apr 24-25 Franklin Main Street Festival
- May 11 May YR Meeting
- May 20 Just Desserts

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.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances, Todd Lewis has stepped down from the Social Chairman position. We are seeking a new Social Chair, preferably in time to help plan the upcoming crawfish boil. This is a great opportunity to get involved.

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.

- Social Chairman
- 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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After a bungled election in 1948, Republicans regained the White House with Eisenhower in 1952. During that election, Vice Presidential candidate Richard Nixon came under pressure after the discovery of a secret campaign fund. With the Republicans ready to remove him from the ticket, Nixon went on television and gave his famous "Checkers Speech". He became a national hero overnight.

Eisenhower wasn't the President the conservative Republicans had hoped for. He was unwilling to reverse many of Roosevelt's "New Deal" and Truman's "Fair Deal" measures, and he continued Truman's policies regarding the Soviet Union, cementing the Cold War strategy. Despite this, Eisenhower won his second term in 1956.

In 1960, Nixon lost to John F. Kennedy, and after an unsuccessful run for governor in California, was in no position to run in 1964. Instead, Barry Goldwater received the nomination. Popular with the more conservative elements of the party, Goldwater couldn't garner national support. However, his campaign had long-reaching impact. Southern white Democrats were increasingly unhappy with their party's civil rights support. Goldwater played to this, drawing vast numbers of Southern voters into the GOP and simultaneously driving black voters to the Democrats. What had been a slow drift had become a torrent, changing the demographics of both parties.

In 1968, Nixon ran again, this time winning the Presidency by a narrow margin, despite a meltdown by the Democratic party and the split of Democratic votes between Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey and American Independent Party candidate George Wallace. Nixon won reelection in 1972, but things fell apart soon afterwards. The Watergate scandal broke before the election of 1972, but Nixon managed to win reelection. A year later, in October of 1973, Vice President Agnew resigned amid charges of tax evasion. Gerald Ford was appointed to replace him. A year later, the Watergate scandal had run its course, and Nixon resigned, leaving Ford the first and only President never to win a national election.

In 1976, Ford beat California Governor Ronald Reagan for the nomination, but lost the election to Jimmy Carter. Under Carter's administration, taxes and inflation skyrocketed. In 1980, Reagan won the Presidency. Reagan's administration reinvigorated the conservative base of the party. Reagan's policies of lower taxes and smaller government and a hard-line stance against the Soviet Union made him a hero in the Republican party.

In 1988, after eight years of Reagan's popular policies, Vice President George H.W. Bush easily beat Michael Dukakis. Bush's administration saw the final dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Bush also gained support with a quick victory in the Gulf War. However, a recession and a tax hike eroded Bush's support. In addition, Ross Perot attracted traditionally Republican voters away from Bush in the 1992 election. Democrat William Jefferson Clinton won the Presidency.

By 2000, the political climate had polarized. Driven by Clinton's impeachment, sentiments ran high in both parties. Vice President Al Gore won the Democratic nomination and Texas Governor George W. Bush won the Republican nomination. By election day, the voters had divided evenly, and the election hinged upon a few states with margins well below a sure count. After the final tally, the election centered upon Florida. With Bush winning by less than 2,000 votes, the Gore campaign contested the results. The battle was finally settled by a 5-4 vote in the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of certifying the vote without a recount. George Bush had won the Presidency, but with a minority of popular votes.

During the first months of Bush's administration, recession set in. Bush pushed through tax cuts to alleviate the economic crisis, but the true test of his Presidency didn't occur until September 11, 2001, when terrorists under Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda organization flew commercial jetliners into the World Trade Towers in New York and into the Pentagon. In response, Bush began a war on terror, deposing the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam's Ba'athist regime in Iraq. By 2004, much of al Qaeda's leadership had been destroyed. Bush's reelection seemed assured. However, concerns about the economy and the difficult occupation of Iraq have closed the gap, promising to make the 2004 election a close race.

In its 150 year history, the Republican party has won 22 of 37 Presidential elections. Republicans have led the way in many important issues and are poised to continue to lead well into the future. ♦