

The WCYR Advocate

Williamson County Young Republicans

July, 2004

Joshua Edlin, editor

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 10, 2004
Executive Meeting: 6:00 PM
General Meeting: 6:30 PM
Location: Republican Headquarters
Speaker: TBA

Announcements

- Nicole Lamb has volunteered for the social chairman position and has already begun by planning the "Night with the Sounds." Duncan Blount has assumed the state party liaison position.
- The YR fundraiser "Night with the Sounds" will be held August 29. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Nicole Lamb.
- A resolution in support of the Marriage Amendment was passed at the June meeting. The resolution was presented to the Williamson County GOP Executive Committee and was distributed to all elected officials in Williamson County.
- Mark Green has invited all YRs to the Team GOP fundraiser on August 14.

Chairman's Circle Goal Reached

At the June meeting, Larry Kidwell presented a challenge to the Williamson County Young Republicans. His goal was to raise membership in the Williamson County Chairman's Circle, which provides funds to the county party. Mr. Kidwell urged YR members to join, and offered the option of quarterly payments rather than a lump sum. The final stated goal was to recruit ten YR members to the Chairman's Circle.

The response was phenomenal. As of the July meeting, nine YR members had joined the Chairman's Circle, with another two committed to joining. As of this date, YR members account for 20% of the Chairman's Circle. ♦

WCYR Commits Volunteer Hours

A resolution was passed at the July meeting committing the YRs to five hours of volunteer work per member. The total hours were calculated based upon the 37 currently paid memberships. The final number was rounded to 200 hours. This commitment will be reported to the Williamson County GOP Executive Committee.

In order to track progress against the 200 hours, we request that each member report any hours they spend working for campaigns or fundraisers. The total hours will be monitored and reported to the senior party.

As an organization, we exist to promote the Republican party and the goals and values that the party represents. Additionally, many of us belong to the Young Republicans to gain experience in politics; in that respect, we represent the future of the Republican party, both in Williamson County and potentially at the state and national levels.

Now is the time to achieve those goals. By donating time, we further the party's goals now, by helping to elect Republican leaders, and we prepare ourselves for a future time when we may be called on to run for those offices ourselves.

We have the opportunity to make a difference through our service. By committing to a concrete goal, we can push ourselves to achieve that difference. ♦

Getting Things Done

By Josh Edlin

After weeks of cooperation between Republicans and Democrats to construct and amend the marriage amendment, the Democratic Senators blocked a vote. Unfortunately, this isn't an exceptional occurrence; it seems that obstruction has become business-as-usual in the United States congress. It's amazing that anything can be accomplished at all.

Senator Frist recently sent an email message commenting on this very topic. In it he quoted a *Wall Street Journal* article, saying, "It was said of Willie Mays that his glove was the place where triples went to die. The U.S. Senate has earned a similar reputation of late, but one that is hardly a compliment: It's the place where good ideas go to die..." Senator Frist went on to detail the recent bills that have met the Democrats' wall of obstruction. Welfare Reform, Medical Malpractice, Bankruptcy Reform, Class Action Fairness Act, Death Tax Repeal, Marriage Penalty Repeal, and other bills have passed the House but are mired in the Senate. In all, the *Wall Street Journal* predicted that 26 bills could die in the Senate this session.

Upcoming Events

July 31	National YR Meeting
Aug 10	August YR Meeting
Aug 14	Team GOP Fundraiser
Aug 21	County Picnic
Aug 29	Night with the Sounds

Service Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for the following duties / events. Please contact Brandon Ryan or Josh Edlin if you are interested.

- WCYR has agreed to man the Republican headquarters on some Saturdays. Volunteers will be needed for two hour slots.
- The Janice Bowling campaign is looking for volunteers. Please contact Brandon Ryan or Ms. Blair Morgan at nikao.1@netzero.net to volunteer.
- Senator Bryson has requested YR volunteers to man Phillip Johnson's booth at Nature Fest on September 11.
- The Williamson County GOP Picnic is August 21. WCYR will be hosting our annual beer tent. Please contact Brandon Ryan to volunteer.

A number of positions with WCYR still haven't been filled. If you have an interest in any of the following positions, please contact Brandon Ryan.

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

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It doesn't have to be this way, and on rare occasions, members of both the House and the Senate have gone out of their way to ensure something is done. Here is one such story.

In 1884, former President Ulysses S. Grant was bankrupt and ill. After losing his life savings in an unfortunate business venture, Grant began writing his memoirs to salvage his honor, pay his debts, and provide for his family. In the meantime, Grant's old friend General William T. Sherman began a campaign to have Grant restored to the military roles, making him eligible for a Civil War pension.

When Grant was elected President, he resigned his position as General of the Army so that Sherman could take his place. This magnanimous action had the unintended effect of making Grant ineligible for his pension. Since Presidential pensions had not yet been instituted, when Grant's business partner ran their investment firm into the ground, Grant found himself with little credibility and no means of income. On top of that, Grant had become seriously ill.

Sherman attempted to raise donations for Grant, but the former President wouldn't accept charity. Undeterred, Sherman began to campaign to get Grant reinstated in the Army, an action only Congress could perform. The effort had failed before, and it failed again. However, in March 1885, after learning that Grant's illness was terminal throat cancer, Congressional support for the measure soared. There was one catch, however: President-elect Grover Cleveland's inauguration was fast approaching.

As the inauguration approached, Congress set about to wrap up its business. As usual, a number of bills were outstanding, and Grant's bill didn't come up by the time the House adjourned March 3. Democratic Speaker Samuel J. Randall promised Sherman the measure would be voted on. However, with Congress required to adjourn by noon on March 4 - the time set for Cleveland's inauguration - Sherman was skeptical.

On the morning of March 4, Randall rushed through the morning's agenda. At 11:00 A.M., he turned the chair over to his replacement, requesting a suspension of the rules so that Grant's bill could be considered. The new chair refused, citing an election dispute that must be resolved. Sitting Republican Representative James Wilson of Iowa had challenged the election certification of his opponent, George Frederick. Debate on the issue dragged on, and it looked like Grant's bill wouldn't be considered. As the clock neared noon, Wilson rose and announced that he would drop his objection, thereby surrendering his seat, if the Grant bill would be immediately considered. Grant's bill was passed.

Randall rushed from the House chambers to the Capitol rotunda, where Senators were beginning to gather for Cleveland's inauguration. After notifying them of the events, the Senate was reconvened to vote on the House bill reinstating Grant. Unfortunately, the bill didn't arrive by noon - the time the Senate was legally required to adjourn. A clerk climbed a ladder and set the clock back. The Senate passed the bill, and outgoing President Chester A. Arthur, waiting in a Senate office, had a telegram sent to Grant notifying him of the victory.

With Grant's bill passed, Randall and Arthur joined Cleveland's inauguration procession, twenty minutes late.

The next morning, President Grover Cleveland signed the Grant's commission. The bill had been considered, passed in the House, passed in the Senate, and signed into law by the President in under 24 hours. ♦