

The WCYR Advocate

Williamson County Young Republicans

July, 2005

Joshua Edlin, editor

Officers

David Sink
Chairman
(615) 579-0513
davidbelindasink@hotmail.com

Joshua Edlin
Vice Chairman
(615) 496-3745
joshua.edlin@sellingassistant.com

James Amundsen
Treasurer
jamesamundsen@comcast.net

Kimberly Miller
Secretary
(615) 566-2567
km1207@hotmail.com

David Simpson
Parliamentarian
(615) 804-1468
DASVOL@aol.com

Next Meeting

Tuesday, Aug 9, 2005
General Meeting: 6:30 PM
Location: Pie in the Sky, Cool Springs
Speaker: Glen Casada &
Jeff Ford, County Commissioner

Announcements

- The Williamson County Republican Party will be holding its annual picnic on August 20 at the Magli Farm on Henpeck Lane. The YRs will be selling beverages to raise funds. Volunteers are needed to work the booth.
- The Williamson County Fair will be held August 5 – 13. The WCRP will have a booth at the First Amendment Pavilion.
- “Blackburn at the Ryman Auditorium” will be held August 10 at the Ryman auditorium. Majority Leader Dick Armey will be speaking and songwriters will be performing in honor of Congressman Marsha Blackburn. Tickets are \$50 per person. Contact Mary Morgan Ketchel at (615) 376-2324 for more information.

New Meeting Location

In Spring of 2004, the WCYR chapter left its long-time meeting location at Logan's in Cool Springs. For several months we met at the Republican headquarters in downtown Franklin. However, leading up to the Presidential election, our attendance increased, and after our executive committee elections in January, we decided that we had outgrown the headquarter's meeting room.

For the last three months, we have met at Guido's in Cool Springs. Guido's has made solid efforts to accommodate us, but the open environment has left us fighting to be heard over the regular patrons. Reluctantly, the executive committee decided to move again.

After careful deliberation, it was decided that we would meet at **Pie in the Sky** in Cool Springs. In July we held our first meeting at the new location. The private room was already reserved, so we held the meeting in a corner of the restaurant. We are pleased to report that the food is good and the atmosphere is much more agreeable for our meetings. Starting next month, we will hold our meetings in the private room in the back of Pie in the Sky. ♦

Barry Goldwater

by Josh Edlin

This is the fourth in a series profiling past Republican leaders. The individuals chosen for the profiles never achieved the Presidency, and their fame sometimes fades with time. This series is an effort to highlight the contributions and legacies of these important historical figures.

After World War II, Barry Goldwater returned to Phoenix, Arizona, realizing that he was no longer satisfied simply running his family's general store. He became involved in a municipal reform movement in the city, and in 1949, his fellow reformers convinced him to run for City Council. In 1950, he helped in Republican-underdog Howard Pyle's successful campaign for governor. By 1952, Goldwater had set his sights higher.

Upset with the U.S.'s policy in the Korean War, Goldwater decided to challenge Senate majority leader Ernest McFarland. Although short on political credentials, and fighting a powerful Democrat incumbent in a Democratic state, Goldwater won the election with 7,000 votes.

Once in the Senate, Goldwater fought for smaller government, lower taxes, and a balanced budget. He distrusted organized labor and had grave misgivings about America's growing welfare state. Above all, he despised the threat of Communism and frequently warned of the dangers of socialism.

Goldwater was gaining national fame, bolstered by his book, Conscience of a Conservative, and his speaking engagements across the country. At the 1960 convention, 10 votes were cast for Goldwater on the first ballot, but he asked that they be withdrawn in favor of Nixon. Goldwater was appointed chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, and his duties took him to every state. His work on the campaign made him a serious contender for the 1964 nomination four years later.

However, Goldwater's run in 1964 was in no way a sure thing. He lost the primary in New Hampshire to Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., who ran as a write-in candidate. In Oregon, he lost the primary to Nelson Rockefeller. Goldwater eked out narrow victories in Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska. It was only after the California primary that Goldwater's candidacy solidified. Although Rockefeller was the favorite to win, Goldwater won in California, and Rockefeller withdrew from the race.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 5-13 Williamson County Fair
- Aug 9 August YR Meeting
- Aug 10 "Blackburn at the Ryman Auditorium" fundraiser
- Aug 20 Williamson County Republican Party Picnic

Service Opportunities

- The Williamson County Fair will be held August 5 – 13. Volunteers are needed to work the WCRP booth at the First Amendment Pavilion. Contact Carla Green at carla.green@lpnt.net to sign up.
- Volunteers are needed to work the YR booth at the WCRP Picnic. This is our biggest YR fundraiser of the year. We need people to serve beverages or to cook hotdogs. Contact David Sink for more information.

The WCYR Advocate

July, 2005

After California, Goldwater picked up support, and at the convention, he won the nomination on the first ballot.

As an interesting aside, Ronald Reagan gained national attention as the co-chairman of California Republicans for Goldwater. Reagan delivered a televised speech in support of Goldwater, and contributions poured into Goldwater's campaign. Conservatives flocked to Reagan, and his political future was set.

Goldwater's campaign platform was an extension of his beliefs. Many of his economic issues were taken straight from the literature of the pre-eminent economists of his day. He spoke against labor laws and public works, pointed out the damaging effects of farm subsidies, and proposed to make Social Security voluntary. He never pulled his punches, pointing out the harmful effects of many welfare-state principles.

On foreign affairs, Goldwater was cast in the mold of Teddy Roosevelt. He felt that a strong hand should be used against the forces of communism, and he indicated that nuclear weapons could be an effective part of that arsenal.

As the keystone of his campaign, Goldwater railed against corruption in the government. He repeatedly attacked Johnson for his ties to corrupt Washington politicians, putting Johnson on the defensive. It was not enough, however. Johnson's attacks on Goldwater were consistent and effective.

Ultimately, Goldwater's outspoken nature worked against him. Johnson's campaign continually used Goldwater's quotes against him, painting him as an extremist, a war-monger, and a racist. According to the Democratic campaign, Goldwater would tear down everything the New Deal had wrought and plunge America into nuclear war with the Soviet Union. The more these messages were repeated, the more believable they became.

One of the most significant effects of the campaign was a large shift in voting patterns. Goldwater was a staunch states' righter and split with the majority of Republicans when he voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Goldwater's opposition to the bill, together with Johnson's signing of the bill into law, changed the attitudes of a number of Americans, both white and black. Black voters had been Republican supporters since the Civil War, but they felt alienated by Goldwater, and quickly moved to support Johnson, thus cementing their shift to the Democrat Party.

Meanwhile, white voters in the South still held to their age-old prejudices. Many felt betrayed by Johnson's overt moves to court the black vote. Goldwater, seeing an opportunity, moved to gain those votes. In addition, he courted white voters in the north who had become distrustful of the black militant movement. The end result was a shift of the South from solid Democrat to Republican.

Another shift came from the northeast, which had long been Republican. Goldwater had a strong distrust of the liberal elements of the Republican Party centered on the east coast. Johnson openly campaigned for the votes of these more liberal and moderate Republicans, and swayed more than a few. The northeast swung from Republican to Democrat.

In the end, the Democrat's portrayal of Goldwater was effective. Johnson carried 44 states and garnered 486 electoral votes. Goldwater carried six states, five of them in the South. He managed only 52 electoral votes. The election had ended with one of the biggest landslides in U.S. history.

Goldwater spent the next four years out of office, eventually rejoining the Senate in 1968. He continued to champion conservative causes in the Senate and finally retired in 1986.

In retirement, Goldwater began to display a strong libertarian streak. In his final years he spoke out against discrimination of gays and in support of a woman's right to choose an abortion.

Although Goldwater's later views aren't looked favorably upon by modern Republicans and Republicans regret his alienation of the black community, his career as a whole served as a lightning rod for conservative causes. Although rejected in 1964, he would receive some justification with Reagan's victory in 1980, and in many cases, Republicans are still fighting for Goldwater's causes. ♦