

9/11/05

Greetings All,

In This Month's Newsletter

1. Next Meeting
 2. Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina--What Went Wrong?
 3. Remembering Chief Justice Rehnquist
 - 4 Fall Barbeque
 5. Campaign Update
 6. School Board Elections
-

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Johnson County Republicans will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept 12th. The meeting again will be held at 2010 Keokuk, Hawkeye Brokerage, In Iowa City. All are welcome to attend!

2. Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina--What Went Wrong?

We all saw the horrifying scenes from the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina hitting the US with unimaginable force.

Many political leaders have been quick to blame President Bush alone for the suffering of citizens of the Gulf Coast region.

The fact of the matter is that "blame" if you will, rests not solely on the President, but also with local and state officials in Louisiana, bureaucrats in the federal government, and with criminals who engaged in violent activities against fellow citizens aggravating the already immense suffering.

Were mistakes made in responding to those in need? Absolutely. Should President Bush be the only one to blame for it? Of course not. Yet, our friends on the other side of the aisle have been quick to use the mistakes made to attack the President and to use the situation for political gain.

Now is not the time for playing "gotcha" politics. We have fellow Americans who have lost everything. A major part of our nation has been devastated beyond imagination. Americans don't want to hear our political leaders bickering back and forth about who's at fault. It's time to roll up our sleeves and do whatever we can to help. The following organizations are reputable charitable groups who have mobilized to assist thousands already affected by Hurricane Katrina. Please do what you can to help our fellow citizens. During Monday's meeting our "Lincoln Bag" receipts will be donated to the American Red Cross.

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

1-800-HELP NOW (435-7669)

Operation Blessing

www.ob.org

1-800-436-6348

America's Second Harvest

www.secondharvest.org

1-800-344-8070

Adventist Community Services

www.adventist.communityservices.org

1-800-381-7171

Catholic Charities, USA
www.catholiccharitiesusa.org
1-703-549-1390

Christian Disaster Response
www.cdresponse.org
1-941-956-5183 or 1-941-551 9554

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee www.crwrc.org
1-800-848-5818

Church World Service
www.churchworldservice.org
1-800-297-1516

Convoy of Hope
www.convoyofhope.org
1-417-823-8998

Lutheran Disaster Response
www.lwr.org
1-800-638-3522

Mennonite Disaster Service
www.mds.mennonite.net
1-717-859-2210

Nazarene Disaster Response
www.nazarenedisasterresponse.org
1-888-256-5886

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
www.pcusa.org
1-800-872-3283

Salvation Army
www.salvationarmy.org
1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief www.namb.net 1-800-462-8657, ext. 6440

United Methodist Committee on Relief
www.methodistrelief.org
1-800-554-8583

3. Remembering Chief Justice Rehnquist

With the passing of Chief Justice Rehnquist last week, there are now two vacancies on the Supreme Court that will need to be filled. President Bush has nominated Justice John Roberts to instead now replace Rehnquist as Chief Justice. Justice O'Connor has agreed to stay on the Court until President Bush nominates a new replacement for her. While preparing for the battle ahead to confirm another justice to the Supreme Court, we should reflect on the contribution that Chief Justice Rehnquist made on our nation. I think the articles I've linked to do so quite nicely.

Wendy Long--"With His Boots On"
<http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/long200509040208.asp>

Trent Franks--"Noble Justice"
<http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/franks200509040255.asp>

4. Fall Barbeque

The Johnson County Republican Fall Barbeque has been rescheduled for October 23rd at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. Our outstanding co-chair, Dale Petersen, and event chair John Dane need YOUR help to help make our event a big success. Come to the meeting on Monday night for details as to how you can help!

5. Campaign Update

A Message from Nussle Co-Chair Sam Langholz

Thanks to everyone who made it to last month's meeting to hear from Congressman Jim Nussle. It was great for him to see such a good group of Johnson County Republicans. If you are interested in getting more involved in the campaign, we want your help! We are hard at work organizing our county steering committee and precinct leaders and want to know if you are interested in volunteering, hosting a yard sign, or just staying informed about Nussle news in Johnson County. For more information, or to get involved contact me at:

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A Message from Vander Plaats Co-Chair Dorree Eckhoff

The Vander Plaats campaign for Governor is moving strongly ahead building a winning organization in all of Iowa's 99 counties. We're always looking for people to help spread the word about Bob Vander Plaats vision for a better Iowa. Bob is looking forward to coming to visit with Johnson County Republicans again in the near future. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining Bob's team, placing a yard sign, or staying informed about the Vander Plaats campaign, please feel free to contact me or our co-chair David Arbogast at:

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6. School Board Elections

Local school board elections will take place this coming Tuesday, the 13th. I strongly urge everyone to get informed about the candidates that are running in your school district and vote for the candidate you feel is best suited to direct our local school districts. Our school boards make important decisions that directly affect our children and our pocketbooks. Its important that we make our voices heard at the polls to support the people we know will make wise decisions on behalf of our children's education.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me as always at (319) 621-6868 or email me at dutchjedi@mchsi.com.

With Republican Pride,

Todd Versteegh
Chair, Johnson County Republicans