

2/6/05

Greetings All,

I hope everyone is enjoying the political downtime. I'm sure things will start happening in the governor's race before long!

1. Next Meeting
2. Happy Birthday President Reagan!
3. Congratulations Todd!
4. A Message From Our New Chairman
5. JCR Dinner
6. UI College Republicans News
7. State of the Union Text
8. Gubernatorial Candidate Websites
9. The 49?
10. Dean As DNC Chair
11. JibJab.com

CR news (elections, convention, events, alumni outreach)

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Johnson County Republicans will be at 7:00pm on Monday, February 7th. The meeting will again be held at 2010 Keokuk, Hawkeye Brokerage, in Iowa City. Driving south from Highway 6, it's just past the K Mart driveway on the left.

2. Happy Birthday President Reagan!

Sunday would have been President Reagan's 94th birthday.

You know, we celebrate President's Day as the birthdays of Presidents Washington and Lincoln (or at least we did, I'm not sure what they are doing in the schools these days). Isn't it about time that we added President Reagan to the official celebrations?

3. Congratulations Todd!

We had our JCR Central Committee elections at the last meeting and we should all congratulate our new and returning officers! Todd Versteegh is our new Chairman and Dale Petersen is our new Co-Chairman. Congratulations Todd and Dale! Cyndi Michel and Brian Mitchell are continuing as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Many thanks to Cyndi and Brian for their previous work and their willingness to continue in their positions for another term!

Let's also give a BIG THANKS to outgoing Chairman David Arbogast for all his work during the last two years on behalf of the party and all our Republican candidates!

4. A Message From Our New Chairman

Fellow Johnson County Republicans,

I wanted to take a quick opportunity to pass a few words to our members. First, I want to thank our Central Committee members for entrusting me with the chairmanship of our Central Committee. The Johnson County Republicans is an organization I am obviously extremely passionate about and I'm looking forward to moving our organization forward.

That being said..I have some basic goals that I believe that Johnson County Republicans should focus upon in the upcoming year:

1. Fundraising--We will put a very big effort into raising funds this year and next so that going into the 2006 elections, we will not be hamstrung in our ability to support candidates and voter turnout efforts. We are currently in the process of planning our 2nd Annual Johnson County Republican Spaghetti Dinner. This event will be the kickoff to our efforts going into the next year. This event will be the first of many efforts to raise the needed funds to support our efforts

2. Activism--I believe that JCR needs to be out there in the community, showing Johnson County that we are indeed, PROUD to be Republicans! That being said, I believe that the JCR has a responsibility to keep the Dems in this county in check, knowing that we and the public know what they're doing. As many of us are well aware, there have been many promises made by some of our county officials and members of the Statehouse. Its OUR job to hold them accountable for their actions.

3. Recruitment of Candidates--2006 will be upon us before we know it. There will be several county and Statehouse races that JCR should look strongly into recruiting candidates for. However, JCR should also encourage its members to get involved at the local levels, for example on various city/county boards and commissions, school boards, and City Councils across Johnson County this year and into next. The Dems in

Johnson County have used these boards, councils, etc, to develop their candidate base for higher elective office. Quality candidates for public office frequently come forward from these local boards/commissions.

That's just some things I want to put out there as a starting point for moving forward in the next year. As always, there will be other goals that we'll be working towards as well. We accomplished some GREAT things in 2004. We had a great turnout of support for the President, Rep. Leach and Sen. Grassley. Now, its time to turn that support inward towards Johnson County. I look forward to working with everyone to accomplish our goals. Don't hesitate to contact me or any of our officers with any questions/concerns you might have.

Thanks as always!

Todd Versteegh
Chair, Johnson County Republican Party

5. JCR Dinner

As Todd mentioned in his message, we are in the process of putting together a spaghetti dinner along the lines of the one we held last year. We are now looking to have it the beginning of March, and we will be inviting representatives of the declared and potential gubernatorial candidates to speak. Stay tuned for details.

6. UI College Republicans News

The UI CRs have a lot going on this semester. The state CR convention is in Ames on February 19th. Our own Jeff Daker is running for Chairman of the Iowa Federation of College Republicans. Zach Johnson (formerly a Kirkwood student, now at the UI) is running for Vice Chair (or Co-Chair, I'm not sure of the title).

The CRs will be recruiting and holding other activities before and during President's Day on February 21.

On March 1, the CRs will be holding elections to select officers for the coming year.

The CRs are also working on bringing in speakers to their meetings, a major community service activity, and an event for the end of the semester.

CR meetings are held Tuesdays at 9:00pm in the Iowa Memorial Union. The specific room varies, but you can contact UI CR Chair Kim Fierce if you have any questions (Iowagirl013@aol.com)

7. State of the Union Text

In case you missed it, or just want to read the text, you can see or read the President's State of the Union Address here:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/stateoftheunion/2005/index.html>

8. Gubernatorial Candidate Websites

One of you asked about websites for the gubernatorial candidates. I haven't seen anything yet, but let me know if you do.

In the meantime, below I've listed the official website for Congressman Nussle and the Iowa First Foundation website for Doug Gross. I didn't find anything for Vander Plaats

Congressman Nussle
<http://nussle.house.gov>

Doug Gross
<http://www.iowafirstfoundation.org>

In addition to these sites, I happened on one that listed all the following folks as potential candidates for the Republican primary to be held on June 7, 2006. Gee, only 16 months away!

Danny C. Carroll
Fred Grandy
Doug Gross
Steve King
Jeff Lamberti
James A. "Jim" Nussle
Bob Vander Plaats
Mike Whalen

9. The 49?

One of you asked about the signs around town for "The 49." I asked around and apparently they are a group of folks that are supposed to represent the 49% of Americans who did not vote for President Bush. One of you put it another way: " The 49 signs across town are a group of disgruntled Dems who are basically whining about being in the minority now." Well boo hoo for them. I must say, however, that I'm pleased to see that they continue to waste their time and money on useless and ineffective gestures. Speaking of which, they apparently have a blog at <http://the49.blogspot.com> but it has no messages. A little like the Dems, eh?

10. Dean As DNC Chair

You may have heard that Howard Dean seems to be in the lead for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee. Frankly, I don't get it. Why would the Dems pick such a far left person as the head of their party. Yes, he generated a lot of buzz during the lead up to the 2004 caucuses, but let's not forget that his campaign basically imploded. He was criticized for the Dean Scream that he gave on caucus night, but that was given after he finished so badly here. Do the Dems really believe that Kerry lost because he wasn't liberal enough?

Then again, maybe Dean would be really bad for Republicans. He did generate a lot of interest before the caucuses. Maybe he can use that as a base to extend the party's influence. He won't have the same limitations as he did as a candidate. He'll be able to do a better job of coordinating all the big money lefties (such as Soros) to help the Dems pick up seats in the 2006 Congressional elections, not to mention putting them in a good position for the 2008 presidential race. Now that I think about it, Dean will probably be bad for Republicans. Yep, I sure hope those Dems don't throw us into that briar patch. Um, I mean I sure hope they don't select Dean as DNC Chair.

11. JibJab.com

In case you missed it, JibJab.com has a new video and song out in honor of President Bush's second term. You can see their song "Second Term" on their website:

<http://www.jibjab.com/index.asp>

When the video first aired they had Iowa colored blue on a state map. Lots of folks must have written in as they acknowledged the mistake and changed it fairly quickly. That's good, because we certainly wouldn't want all our hard work to turn Iowa red to be overlooked!

Until next time,

Tim Hagle