



Facts

March-April
2008

The Newsletter of the Republican Party Of Dane County, Wisconsin

Lincoln Day Dinner Recap!

Learn about the resounding success that was the 2008 Lincoln Day dinner – and view the pictures!

PAGE TWO

Dane County Caucus Recap!

Even longtime members say they've never seen a Dane County Caucus like this! See a listing of all resolutions passed

PAGE FOUR

2nd District Caucus Recap!

Even Abe Lincoln showed up to see the 2nd District Republicans conduct business. See a listing of the RNC delegates as well.

PAGE FIVE

RPW State Convention!

Friday, May 16th & Saturday, May 17th

PAGE SIX

Come out and meet state leaders and strategists to help turn Wisconsin back into a Red State! Speakers to include Paul Ryan and Tim Pawlenty, among many others.

RPDC Chair Eric West Says Goodbye

Eric got a job offer he couldn't refuse, and is moving. Read his farewell message to the readers of Facts

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Changes Being Made To *Facts* Format!

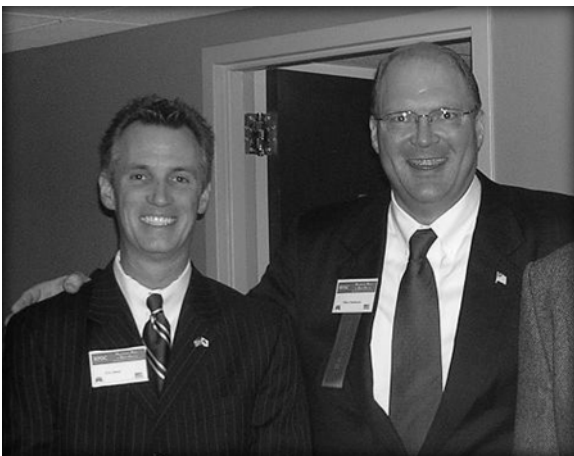
We need YOUR help modernizing FACTS! If you read nothing else in this issue, please read this.

PAGE NINE

Let the People know the Facts and the Republic will be Saved Abraham Lincoln, 1860

A Memorable Lincoln Day Dinner!

Despite the ferocious weather, we had a great turnout for an event that included tasty food, good conversation and a notable set of speakers. For those readers who were there, these pictures should bring back memories of the evening. For the record, the final two pictures in this collage are from Nancy Bartlett. The rest of the pictures below were all taken by the de facto Dane GOP photographer, Bill Richardson:



RPDC Chair Eric West with Judge Mike Gableman.



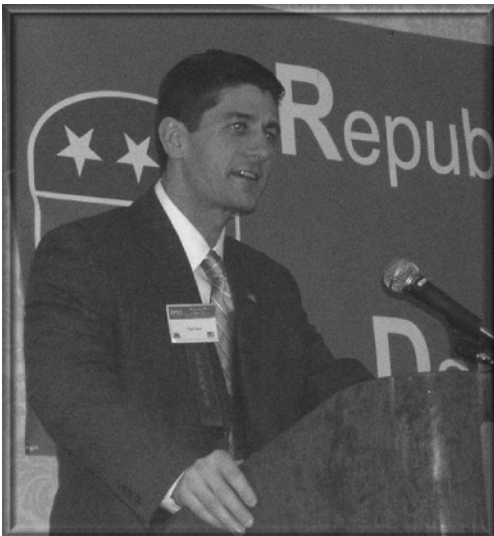
Reince Priebus, Chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, tells the party to unite behind our presumptive nominee, Sen. John McCain



47th Assembly District Candidates Erich Ruth (left) and Keith Ripp (right) both got a chance to speak and build support for their campaigns.



The reception committee, members of the events committee and helpers Bev Madrell, Connie Blau, Margie Blau, and Chair of Events Deb Speckmann. The dinner could never have happened without their organizational efforts.



The keynote speaker was Rep. Paul Ryan, from Janesville.

Rep. Ryan has served as the Congressman from the First Congressional District since 1999, and is seeking his sixth term in November. He has been mentioned as a possible Vice-Presidential candidate on a John McCain ticket, as well as a possible Senate candidate in 2012. Rep. Ryan spoke at length about fiscal responsibility and how important it is to keep the Democrats from forcing universal health care on all of us.

Rep. Ryan faces stiff competition in his re-election fight this year. To help him by giving money or by lending your time, visit his website at <http://www.ryanforcongress.com/>



Rep. Ryan also got a chance to speak with RPDC Chair Eric West



... and County Board candidate Adrian Augustine.

We here at *Facts* would also like to thank Deborah Ann Speckman for her years of service to the Republican Party of Dane County. She has resigned her position as Events Chair after planning many events, including this year's Lincoln Day Dinner.

Remarkable Dane County Caucus!

The county caucus is never a routine event. In addition to approving the treasurer's report and hearing some speeches, there is usually interesting discussion and debate. This year there was an avalanche of resolutions, leading to lively debate that was halted only by a time limit on the room. While it's impossible to get into all of the debate here, here is a listing of all the Resolutions passed:

Therefore let it be resolved that the Republican Party of Dane County...

- ✓ Favors improved bus transit, better, safer, higher capacity highways that bypass the Isthmus, and is against raising sales and other taxes to be authorized via a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) which would be another autonomous taxing authority on an already overburdened population.
- ✓ Promotes a reduction in health care regulations in order to promote increased private sector competition.
- ✓ Opposes any government regulation that would interfere with the private Health Care decisions between individuals and their doctors.
- ✓ Urges the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor to adopt legislation permitting law-abiding citizens without a felony record to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons as in the states of Alaska and Vermont.
- ✓ Supports the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution and opposes any gun control legislation.
- ✓ Supports the punishment of criminal activity involving firearms under current laws.
- ✓ Demands the United States Congress pass legislation to remove the jurisdiction of the *Roe v Wade* decision over the state courts.
- ✓ Demands our federal and state governments not directly or indirectly fund abortions.
- ✓ Supports the Wisconsin farmers in the production of industrial hemp.
- ✓ Calls on congress to work toward a more fair tax system than the current tax on productivity called the graduated income tax, and to reduce the size and scope of government to be in line with the Constitution of the United State in order to make that possible.

Exciting 2nd District Caucus!

Great Set of Speakers

JB Van Hollen showed up to tell local Republicans to be optimistic about our election prospects. He has won a statewide election in a hostile year for Republicans in Wisconsin, and he tried to pass on some advice for future candidates. Judge Mike Gableman also spoke, only three days before his election triumph over Louis Butler. He emphasized the stark differences between himself and “Loophole Louie”, the very issues that led to his historic election victory. But the biggest speaker of all was our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, who talked to us about winning elections while staying the path in the midst of a tough war. The former President was introduced by Colonel Lucius Fairchild, a Civil War hero and the 10th Governor of Wisconsin.

“Rock the House”

Brian Schimming, a leading Republican strategist and a WIBA radio personality led a discussion on expanding our lead in the State Assembly. Speakers included 80th district Rep. Brett Davis, 47th Rep. Gene Hahn, 31st Rep. Steve Nass and former Representatives Debra Towns and David Ward. 47th District candidates Erich Ruth, Keith Ripp and Tim McCumber also spoke. The most important message we heard was that it’s important to focus on local politics. Meet as many of your constituents as possible and focus on local issues. Voters may disagree with the national Republican Party, but they can still be convinced by candidates that focus on issues like the RTA and tax cuts.

The message is important because Southcentral/Southwestern Wisconsin, the Madison Media Market, is ground zero in the battle for control of the Wisconsin State Assembly. During 2006, the Democrats captured eight assembly seats in the “tsunami election.” Two of those were in the second congressional district. Two other incumbents had close shaves: Gene Hahn and Brett Davis. Both of those seats are among the highest priorities for the Democrats and their powerful national interest groups.

Last session, Democrats proposed a universal health care proposal that would cost at least \$18 billion dollars. The state deficit is already nearly \$2 billion. The stakes are high, and we will need your help in the fall.

National Delegates Selected

The second congressional district elected three delegates and three alternates to the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota. Wisconsin has 40 delegates and 37 alternates. Each district elects 3 delegates ensuring that the grassroots is well represented. The three delegates selected were Kim Babler of Burke Town, Regina Schaar of Lake Mills, and Jeff Waksman of Madison. The three alternates selected were John Pearson of Beloit, Andrew Kolberg of Marshall, and Connie Blau of Waunakee. Delegates are required by Wisconsin law and personally sworn to vote for the Presidential candidate at the national convention who carried the 2nd District, John McCain. McCain carried 7 of 8 congressional districts in Wisconsin in the February 19 primary.

RPW State Convention Returns to Stevens Point

Submitted by Kim Babler, GOP Chair for Wisconsin's Second Congressional District

Wisconsin Republicans return to Stevens Point for their 2008 election year convention. Decisions confronting the voters are numerous including Courthouse Offices in 72 counties, 99 Assembly Reps, 16 State Senators, 8 Congressional Reps, and Wisconsin's 10 Presidential Electoral Votes. Wisconsin Republicans will discuss winning strategies. *Keys for 2008 will be the struggle for control of the State Assembly held by the Republicans and winning Wisconsin for John McCain.* Wisconsin has had two narrow misses in the Presidential sweepstakes and is a targeted state once again.

The convention is held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point May 16 & 17.

The Nuts and Bolts Training, the County Chair's Banquet and hospitality suites highlight Friday's activities. With registration opening at noon, practical training seminars for Republican activists run from 1:00-5:30 pm. These are popular workshops, helping Republicans improve their skills.

The Banquet Friday will feature the keynote speaker of the convention. The speakers for the convention will be announced, as we get closer to May. Members can follow the announcements on the state party's website, <http://www.wisgop.org/>, and also by signing up there for email alerts. Prior to the banquet will be a cocktail reception for delegates.

The real politics will begin with the hospitality suites immediately following the banquet when Republicans get to network with others from around the state.

Saturday will begin with the Prayer Breakfast at 7:30, a fixture of the convention for the last few years. Registration opens at 6 am and the convention convenes at 9 am. The convention will *feature members of Congress, the legislature, and Attorney General J. B. VanHollen* among other speakers to be announced during the coming weeks. Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women sponsors the noon luncheon also featuring an important speaker. The convention concludes with the passage of resolutions.

Update on RTA

Bill Richardson has been helping incumbent Cty Supervisors Eileen Bruskevitz, Jack Martz, Dave Wiganowsky, Duane Gau, Ruth Ann Schoer and others, (not all are R's, but all oppose trains and support better highways and improved bus service). He also helped get anti-"Trainiacs" elected to the Dane County Board on April 1st.

To help fight the RTA please go to <http://www.thegreattrainrobbery.org>. There are a number of ways to help, so please get involved now!

Thank You, From the Chair

Dear Members of the RPDC,

Over the last 14 months it has been my honor to serve as your Chairman. Who knew that you would reward a volunteer who had his "I've had enough moment" with such a high honor? I have learned a lot, met many great people and have made a lot of friends. I hope that you will consider what the party accomplished while I was chair a step in the right direction.

Here is a quick summary of what the RPDC has done in the last 14 months. We moved to our new, less expensive and nicer office. We had 2 successful Lincoln Day dinners and a very well attended summer picnic. We switched our membership database to the Patriot system, giving the Executive Committee greater access to information and streamlining operations. We have plenty of cash in the bank with no major obligations on the horizon. We helped in a small way to get a conservative elected to the State's Attorney General office and on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. We were also blessed by a contribution by two of our members to buy new technology for the office, a new color printer, 2 lap tops and high speed internet. I truly feel that the RPDC is better off today than when I was elected Chair in February of 2007.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity and for believing in me. I am sorry to inform you that on April 8th, I resigned as the Chairman of the RPDC. This is truly one of those bittersweet moments for me. I will miss working for all of you and fighting the left here in Dane County.

I have accepted a new job in Jacksonville, Florida.

So why am I leaving? Well, I was NOT looking to leave nor was I looking for a job. I got a call one day from a headhunter when it was 10 below zero and she said Florida and I said let's talk. Lisa and I have been vacationing in Florida for the last few years and have really grown to love it. I have an incredible job waiting for me with an absolute top-notch company. I am the new General Sales Manager for WAPE-FM in Jacksonville. The "Big Ape" is a 50-year-old Top 40 station much like Z104 here in Madison (for which I used to work). Jacksonville is market 47, Madison is market 97 and in my business moving up 50 markets is a huge jump that rarely happens. My new office is 10 minutes from the beach, it does not snow and there are 60 golf courses in the area.

Here is the kicker for us political junkies: Florida is a RED state. Governor, Senators, Congressman, Mayor of Jacksonville, the City Council, the Sheriff almost every public office is held by a Republican. Jacksonville voted 62% for Bush in 2004. I am looking forward to living in such a Republican area.

For my family and I, we could not have asked for a better opportunity than this. We are all very excited. It's almost too good to be true.

So I leave you all in good hands and pointed in the right direction. Don't ever stop believing in the cause and do whatever you can to get more Republicans elected to office around here.

Let's win in November!!!

Eric

A Third Candidate Declares For 47th

The number of declared Republicans for the 47th Assembly District has now grown to three. Erich Ruth and Keith Ripp both spoke at the Lincoln Day Dinner, and their pictures can be seen on the bottom of page two. A third declared candidate is Tim McCumber (pictured on the right), the Town Administrator of Merrimac



Mr. McCumber has spent more than seven years in local government. He has also served as the Chair of the Governance Council at the Merriman Community Charter School, and as President of the Church Council at Our Savior Luthern Church in Baraboo.

Mr. McCumber wants to bring school choice to improve the quality of education for our children, and to pass legislation to reduce the ability of large towns to force their will on smaller ones with annexation threats and regional commissions. He also wants to stop the explosion of property tax rates while still providing the same quality of services that local citizens expect.

This seat was previously held by Republican Gene Hahn, who is now completing his nine term in office and is choosing not to seek re-election. This seat has been declared a target by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, so please help as much as you can!

Judge Michael Gableman Makes History

Despite a massive smear campaign by the trial lawyers and other national special interest groups that poured money into the most expensive election in Wisconsin Supreme Court history, Mike Gableman ousted Louis Butler 51%-49%. Butler becomes the first incumbent state justice to lose re-election since Chief Justice George Currie was punished in 1967 for allowing the Milwaukee Braves to leave the state.

Louis Butler had been appointed to the State Supreme Court back in 2004 by Jim Doyle, throwing the balance of power to the left. He joined the other activist judges in overturning case precedent and making Wisconsin a hotbed for civil suits. Judge Gableman won the election by pledging to restore sanity to the court and respect for the law.

This important election result sent shockwaves around the entire country, sparking panic on the left. Despite the fact that Wisconsin has been voting Democrats into statewide office for the past few years, the state wasn't ready to re-elect a judge that legislated from the bench. Clearly, even a lot of Democratic voters are uncomfortable with activist judges.

Thank you to everyone who played a role in helping Judge Mike Gableman win a very important election.

Major Changes To *Facts*

A New Editor!

Hi, I'm Jeff Waksman and I'm the new editor of the very publication that you're reading right now. As mentioned in the last issue of *Facts*, I'm a PhD candidate at UW-Madison. Before coming here I lived my entire life in New York, including receiving my bachelor's degree in 2006 from Columbia University. I am excited to help bring about change to Dane County.

Converting To An Electronic Format

As part of our process of winning back this county, we are modernizing our newsletter process. The goal is to send *Facts* out in e-mail format to as many people as possible, beginning with the next issue. We want to move it to an electronic format for a couple of reasons. First of all, it's cheaper. It costs money to print these newsletters, as well as postage. Secondly, you can now pass this newsletter on to your friends at no cost. We encourage you to forward this newsletter to all of your acquaintances who might be sympathetic to our cause.

Please Check Your Mailing Label

Look at the address label on the back of this publication. In addition to your home address you should see one of two notes. Either "YES! We have your e-mail" or "NO! We don't have your e-mail". Please check your label and read the following information for your label:

Yes! We have your e-mail: This means that we have an e-mail address for you on file. Hopefully, this also means that you received this issue of *Facts* in your e-mail inbox. If you didn't receive a copy, then that means one of two things. Either it got sent to your junk mail, in which case you have to set facts@danegop.org as a safe e-mail address. The other possibility is that we have the wrong e-mail address for you on file. So if you're sure that *Facts* didn't get sent to your junk mail, please e-mail us at facts@danegop.org with the correct e-mail address.

If you did get the e-mail version of *Facts*, but would still like to make a change, please e-mail us about that as well. You can let us know if you want a change of e-mail address, or if you'd still like to receive a hard copy version. If you don't let us know you want a hard copy, this will be the final in-print version of *Facts* that you'll receive.

No! We don't have your e-mail: This means that we have no e-mail address for you on file. So as long as your dues are paid up to date, you will continue to receive *Facts* in the hardcopy version as you have been in the past. If you would like to receive an electronic copy instead, please let us know where to send it to.

Have Any New Ideas?

We will be looking to add some new features to *Facts*, and I'm open to any and all ideas. For example, one possibility is a feature piece on a different supporter each issue. Please feel free to pass along any ideas that you have. As always, the best way to contact us is at facts@danegop.org. You can also call the office at 288-0059.

Join up (or renew) with the RPDC soon!

What does the RPDC do? The RPDC is a grass-roots organization that supports conservative and moderate candidates for local, county, and state office. We recruit candidates and rally voters. We offer candidates a network of know-how, volunteers, and contributors. We are also an avenue for conservative and moderate Dane County residents to get involved in their government. Our events throughout the year allow people to get involved, meet officeholders and candidates, and share views in an effective manner.

What do you get from an RPDC membership? Via our newsletter *Facts* (published every other month) and other RPDC contacts, members get “plugged in” to campaign and volunteer efforts in our area. (Membership includes a subscription to *Facts*.) Members may attend our Spring Caucus, and our annual Lincoln Day Dinner; members may also attend the annual Second Congressional District Caucus and the State Republican Convention as delegates from Dane County. There’s always an event ahead at which RPDC members can network with officeholders and fellow Republicans.

How can you join the RPDC? That’s easy! Just fill out one of the forms in this issue of *Facts*, send it in with your first year’s dues, and start taking advantage of opportunities to become active in our party!



Facts

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Need to Join the RPDC? We'd love to have you!

Dues: ___ Student (\$10 yearly) ___ Regular (\$35 yearly) ___ Bronze (\$65 yearly)
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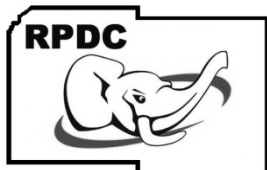
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AAPF by the RPDC, Eric West, Chair

3/08



The RIGHT Choice
For Dane County

Facts

*From the
Republican Party of
Dane County*

March-April 2008

Vol. 43 No. 2

This issue of *Facts*:

Dane County Caucus/LDD Recaps

Gableman elected/2nd District Caucus

Major Format Changes to *Facts*

Calendar of events on page 10!

And More! Look inside ...