

TRUNKLINE

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GOP CONVENTION EXPERIENCE BY DAVE WISSING

Last month, seven residents of Howard County made the trip out to St. Paul, Minnesota to attend the Republican National Convention to watch John McCain accept the nomination of the Republican Party for President of the United States. A few of the members went out a few days early and attended the Minnesota State Fair. What was amazing was the sheer size of the fair, which would make the size of the Maryland State Fair look like a backyard picnic. Sunday night saw the arrival of most of the delegations and all delegations from around the country attended CivicFest in Minneapolis, where delegations were allowed to mingle with each other, enjoy some great displays, purchase official convention gear and where the official photos were taken. Monday's convention schedule was pared back due to the event in the Southeast from Hurricane Gustav, but speeches were given by both First Lady Laura Bush and



Bob, Dave, Loretta, Ed, and John at the Republican Convention in St. Paul.

John McCain's wife, Cindy McCain, to help raise money for hurricane relief. The morning started off with breakfast as the Maryland delegation heard from a member of the Minnesota State Legislature. After that, it was off to an event at the Circus Juventus outside of the city limits for lunch and a short circus

show to entertain everyone. Tuesday, the events picked up as thankfully the southeast was spared major damages. The Maryland delegation started off the morning at breakfast listening to high profile speakers like former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, former Iraq-war

THE MCCAIN CAMPAIGN IN HOWARD COUNTY

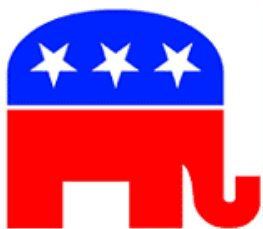
BY BOB PRATZ, HOWARD COUNTY MCCAIN CHAIRMAN

Whew! What a very busy six weeks since the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis. We held a very successful fundraiser at the lovely home of Pete and Bess Vrettakos. We were able to have a strong presence at the Highland Days Festival, the

Oakland Mill Cultural Arts Festival, and the Howard County 50+ Expo.

On Saturday, October 18th Joan Becker and I represented the McCain Campaign at the African Americans of

Howard County 'People's Rally' from 10:00 - 2:00 PM. There was also the Dayton Days Parade and Picnic on Sunday, October 19 at Morningstar Drive and Ten Oaks. This was a well attended event that demonstrated the growing support John



YOUNG REPUBLICAN'S EXCITED ABOUT MACAIN-PALIN

BY KEVIN RODKY, PRESIDENT HOWARD COUNTY YOUNG REPUBLICANS

Young Republicans in Howard County, like YRs across the country, are enthusiastic about supporting the McCain-Palin ticket. This election is attracting the attention of younger voters in numbers previously unseen, and the voters are savvier and better informed than before. Slogans like "Barack the Vote" are catchy and watching a speech in a football stadium may be entertaining, but many young voters know it takes more than just belief for change to occur. That is why so many members of a generation that is committed to community service are drawn to a presidential candidate from another generation who defines public service and self-sacrifice. Senator McCain's "Country First" motto echoes our own beliefs about what it takes to improve America and YRs are inspired to match (if it is even possible) McCain's service to his country.

With the convention over and the election

right around the corner, look for YRs to actively support the McCain-Palin ticket in a number of ways. Through the national YR organization, there are opportunities to campaign with other YRs in neighboring battleground and must-win states. Closer to home, the YRs will be working with the other clubs and the Central Committee to make sure the voters of Howard County know that they, too, can be proud of supporting McCain-Palin. Upcoming events will include debate watch parties, sign waving, and other campaign activities leading up to the election. In general, see the calendar on www.hocogop.org for information about upcoming events.

While the Presidential election is attracting the headlines, it is not the only thing the YRs have been focused on. Within the county, YRs volunteered their free time to staff the Republican booth at the Howard County Fair. Statewide, the YRs had a

convention in Baltimore where the Chairman presented the Howard County Young Republicans with the Outstanding New Club Award.



The Howard County YRs are proud to be recognized as an outstanding new club, but we are always looking for new members with great ideas for spreading the Republican message. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in joining the Young Republicans, please contact Kevin Rodkey at kevin_rodkey@hocogop.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Election Night Party

Come out Election night and cheer on John McCain and Sarah Palin to victory. The Party will be at the McCain/Palin Howard County Campaign Headquarters at 7500 Montpelier Road, Laurel, MD 20723. The party will begin once the polls close at 8pm.

For more information and exact directions to the headquarters visit our website at www.hocogop.org and click on the how to get involved tab.

- Friday, October 24th: Delegate Gail Bates Fall Fundraiser
- Saturday, October 25th: Bull and Oyster Roast 1-6pm
- Tuesday, October 28th: Last day to request an absentee ballot
- Tuesday, October 28th: Republican Women's Club elections
- Thursday, October 30th: Get out the vote rally with G. Gordon Liddy at the Baltimore Hilton 6:30pm
- Tuesday, November 4th: Election Day
- Tuesday, November 4th: Election Night Party 8pm at campaign headquarters
- Friday, November 7th: Republican Club First Friday
- Wednesday, November 12th: Central Committee Meeting 7:00pm at the Ellicott City Senior Center
- Saturday, December 13th: Republican Women's Club Holiday Party

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH



NEWS FROM THE HOWARD COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN BY MELISSA RIDGELY COVOLESKY, HCRW PRESIDENT

This election seems to get more interesting and unpredictable by the day! With the addition of Sarah Palin to the ticket, John McCain has re-energized the conservative base and injected enthusiasm and much needed fundraising into his campaign. With this addition, the HCRW has also seen an increased interest in assisting with the campaign and supporting our ticket. Within days of the announcement and the convention, I personally received calls from Republicans, Democrats and Independents about the ways they help Sen. McCain and Gov. Palin. There are several ways:

Learn as much as you can from all sources. If you only listen to the fair and balanced news, you will miss out on the spin that spreads in the media. This will make it harder to discuss and address inaccuracies with friends, co-workers or others that want to talk about the current events. Know the facts and know the spin - most importantly, know the difference between the two!

Host debate parties with friends, family and even those that don't necessarily share your views. Watching the debates with someone really brings out great discussions and nuances are brought to the forefront. They may see or hear something you did not; they may make take something differently than you did. This dialogue is critical to helping people make informed decisions.

Contact the Howard County HQs and ask when you can volunteer your time. There are many things that need to be done now that the location has been nailed down. Contact the HOCOGOP website for more information.

Support the upcoming HCRW activities such as the 50+ Expo on Oct 17th at Wilde Lake High School. This is a great opportunity to get a major target demographic registered to vote and to get our message out.

This will be my last year as the President of the HCRW; a new slate of officers were nominated at the Sept 30th meeting and they will be voted on at the October meeting. I truly enjoyed serving over the past 2 years and I look forward to the energy that the new board will bring. I hope all our members support the new board as fully as you supported me. If you were an inactive member, please consider re-activating your membership - the load is lighter with many hands.

I would like to thank my current board members for their tremendous efforts this year while I was called back to Active Duty for nearly 5 months. As many of you may know, my husband, David, is currently serving in Iraq until March 2009. So even after I returned from my training, things just didn't run as



Jo Serra Accepts the Peg Browning Women of the Year Award from Chairman Joan Becker

smoothly while I adjusted to the new "normal" in the Covolesky household. But, your yeoman efforts have held this club together and your collaborative nature has served us well. Thank you!

With less than 14 days to the election, I challenge everyone to find at least one undecided voter that they can convince to listen to John McCain's message with an open mind and give America a chance to overcome these latest difficulties by voting Republican!

God Bless America!

THE MCCAIN CAMPAIGN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

McCain has in Howard County.

The next week is crucial to the McCain/Palin campaign's success. We need every volunteer we can get to help staff the polls on Election Day. Also, we are supporting the campaign's efforts in Virginia by phone calling to help with the Get Out the Vote initiative. Don't be shy, roll up your sleeves and help out. We can use as little or as much time as you can give. All you need to do is go the Howard County

Republican Central Committee website at www.hocogop.org and sign up.

And, don't forget, we will be holding our Election Day Victory Party at the temporary campaign headquarters at 7500 Montpelier Road. I look forward to seeing all of you there!



Becky Vandenberg and Flora Betro pose with our next President John McCain

BALLOT QUESTIONS: WHAT ARE THEY

BY DELEGATE GAIL BATES

With the economic crisis playing itself out minute by minute, I am sure that the last thing you are thinking about right now is the upcoming election. I received my retirement statements last week and was distressed at the "paper" losses. I believe we are in for a roller coaster ride with our investments. I do not believe it is time to panic, but time to be prudent in our investments. This is a complicated problem that took decades to develop, and will likely not be resolved in the short term. There is more than enough blame to go around, and the errors will hopefully sort themselves out as the details are analyzed.

I am offering some information on the two ballot questions we are asked to vote on this year.

Question 1 - Constitutional Amendment, (Chapter 513, Acts of 2007) Early Voting; Polling Places; Absentee Ballots

This authorizes the Maryland General Assembly to enact legislation to allow qualified voters to vote at polling places inside or outside of their election districts or wards and to vote up to two weeks before an election. This amendment also authorizes the General Assembly to enact legislation to allow absentee voting by qualified voters who choose to vote by absentee ballot, in addition to voters who are absent at the time of the election or who are unable to vote personally.

Above is the language that will appear on the ballot. Other states allow early voting. It is promoted as a convenience to voters and a means to increase voter turnout; however, there has been no substantial increase in voter turnout in those states. In Maryland, voters may

vote by absentee ballot when unable to vote at the polls on Election Day. This makes the entire early voting system duplicative and unnecessary.

Other concerns arise with this measure in the state of Maryland, since Maryland does not require photo identification of voters (only name and birth date). There is a very real potential for voter fraud. This is compounded by the provision that voters may vote at polling places outside their election district where they would be otherwise unknown.

Local election boards have difficulty finding sufficient election judges for a single day of voting, how much more with multiple days. Security of voting equipment becomes problematical with multiple days of voting.

Voting is both a right and a responsibility, and we must insure the integrity of each person's vote. Rather than increasing the opportunity for voter fraud, we should be tightening voter security. I will be voting NO.

Question 2 - Constitutional Amendment (Chapter 5, Acts of 2007 Special Session) Authorizing Video Lottery Terminals (Slot Machines) to Fund Education

This authorizes the State to issue up to five video lottery licenses for the primary purpose of raising revenue for the education of children in public schools, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, public school construction & improvements, and construction of capital projects at community colleges & higher education institutions. No more than a total number of 15,000 video lottery terminals may be authorized in the State, and only one license may be issued for each specified location in Anne Arundel, Cecil, Worcester & Allegany Counties, and Baltimore City. Any additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming in Maryland

is prohibited, unless approved by a voter referendum.

This is not a simple up or down vote on slots. It amends our State Constitution to identify locations for slots and the numbers of machines allowed. Should one or more of those locations decide not to allow slots in their jurisdiction, any changes would need to go back to voters again to amend the Constitution. One would have to question the judgment of a legislature to put this level of detail in our Constitution. Even former Governor Ehrlich, who championed slots during his administration, has come out in opposition.

Additional funding for schools and other services is promised, if slots passes; however, the notion that this would preclude tax increases is disingenuous, since taxes were raised during the special session. Remember, the lottery was to be a major funding source for education also.

Based on the revenue and expense projections presented Tuesday, Oct. 14 at the annual budget briefing and revenue forecasting, even with slots factored in, State spending is out of control and we continue for the next 5 years to have about a \$1 billion structural deficit each year.

I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to share it with your friends and relatives.



Howard County Republican Central Committee Members

Joan Becker, Chairman, Joan_Becker@hocogop.org

John W. Bailey IV, Vice Chair, John_Bailey@hocogop.org

Peg Browning, Peg_Browning@hocogop.org

Trent Kittleman, Trent_Kittleman@hocogop.org

Heather Mitchell, Heather_Mitchell@hocogop.org

Bob Pratz, Bob_Pratz@hocogop.org

Loretta Shields, Loretta_Shields@hocogop.org

John D. Wafer, John_Wafer@hocogop.org

Kevin Rodkey, Secretary, Kevin_Rodkey@hocogop.org

Chris Oxenham, Treasurer, Chris_Oxenham@hocogop.org

WWW.HOCOGOP.ORG

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OLD PARTY IN ST. PAUL

BY LOUIS M. POPE, REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN

Wow – what a great GOP Convention! The 71 members of the Maryland Delegation attending the RNC Convention in Minneapolis/St Paul returned to town full of enthusiasm, optimism, and renewed energy. The planning for the RNC Convention had taken almost two full years and because it was back to back with the Democrats in Denver we knew we had to make it an even better event to get a bounce in the polls. Well as it turned out, John McCain himself provided the necessary ingredient to get us all totally energized. That piece of the puzzle was Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska. When she was announced as his running mate at the event in Ohio the Friday before the start of our convention it literally changed everything. Barack Obama had just completed his historic acceptance speech before 80,000 people at Mile High Stadium and the Democrats were on a roll. Their campaign was gaining altitude and momentum and soaring for the heavens – then 15 hours later Sarah Palin’s nomination was announced and the Democrat’s oxygen bags dropped from the ceiling and they have been gasping for air and in a tail spin ever since.

mension to this campaign that virtually no one could have anticipated. Not only is she a very successful woman with strong conservative credentials and running the largest geographic state in the nation – but she is an absolutely fantastic speaker as well. Even though our Convention experience was shortened by one day compliments of Hurricane Gustav it made the next three days even more action packed and memorable. I have been to five RNC conventions and normally the highlight of the week when excitement reaches a crescendo is when the Presidential nominee makes his speech on Thursday night. However, this year in my opinion the most anticipated speech and the emotional high point of the week was Governor Palin’s incredible speech on Wednesday evening. Here she was, a new comer to the national stage and she hit a “grand slam homerun” in her first time up at the plate. She was magnificent in both laying out her personal story and her objectives but also in skewering the Obama/Biden ticket. It was really like nothing any of us had ever seen. We all loved every minute of it.

speech. He spoke calmly and from the heart – directly to the American people about his hopes, dreams and plans for the country. When his speech concluded over 100,000 red white and blue balloons fell from the ceiling and we were dancing to rock and roll in the aisles.



Conventions are unique events in American Politics – both parties take a week off and celebrate our candidates, our values and our mission then we get down to work on the toughest eight weeks of the campaign. For all of you who were there in St Paul or were there with us in spirit via television it was a fantastic convention. Good news followed as McCain/Palin took the lead in the national polls. But there is still much work to do on the ground before we can have another GOP celebration on November 4th. **Get ready to rumble!** louismpoppe@aol.com

Governor Sarah Palin adds a new di-

On Thursday John McCain too gave an excellent and thoughtful acceptance



John McCain supporters at the Howard County Fair. The John McCain campaign was a huge hit at the fair, yard signs and bumper stickers were being passed out as fast as they came in.



John McCain supporters at the River Hill 4th of July Parade. The McCain supporters overwhelmed the Democrats with our float, signs, and four legged McCain supporters.

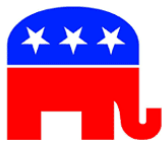
Howard County
Republican Party

P.O. Box 26
Ellicott City, MD 21041

Phone: 41-997-VOTE
E-mail: info@hocogop.org



*Building a stronger community,
one leader at a time.*



The next President of the United States will be elected in a matter of days. It is vitally important that we do all we can to ensure that the next President is John McCain. With the current economic situation our country is facing we cannot afford four years of liberal Barack Obama's economic policies. Policies that will raise your taxes, and in his own words, "spread the wealth around." John McCain believes that you should make decisions on how to spend your own hard earned money. **Please help us win the White House for John McCain** with a donation of \$100, \$75, \$50, or \$25.

Donation Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Donation Level (circle one): \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Donation method: Check Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card #: _____ Ex: _____

Signature: _____

GOP CONVENTION EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

POW Ronald Young, John McCain's son Doug, former POW Elbert Alvarez, and current US Senator from Arizona Jon Kyl. After that, the Maryland delegation went on a train ride through the mountains of Minnesota on the Minnesota Zephyr. Tuesday night, the convention heard from high profile speakers like Fred Thompson, former Senator of Tennessee and Joe Lieberman, the current Senator from Connecticut. President George W. Bush also appeared on the screen from the White



House. Many members of the Maryland delegation were given opportunities to head down to the floor. Wednesday night was the night Republicans put up their moist profile speakers. But before even breakfast started, three members of the Maryland delegation made a trek down the street from the hotel

to Key's Café to attend a live show of the MSNBC Morning Joe. Anyone with a keen eye would have seen Delegation Chairman Don Murphy along with a few others in the crowd behind Joe Scarborough. While there, many politicians and news pundits stopped by for the show including former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, and Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. Many of them graciously took pictures with patrons of the Café. After the event, Tim Pawlenty agreed to attend the Maryland State Delegation breakfast as a surprise guest speaker. Wednesday afternoon saw the Maryland delegation head out to view an Indian Pow-Wow and spend some time in the casino for a little fun and games. Then that evening, the entire convention hall was mesmerized by the speeches of Maryland's former Lt. Governor Michael Steele, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, and topped off with an amazing speech by Vice-Presidential nominee Sarah Palin. After the speeches, Maryland's 37 votes were cast for John McCain during the roll call vote.

Thursday morning, after hearing about how many famous people stopped by Morning Joe, a larger contingent of the Maryland Delegation attend the taping of Morning



Joe. On this morning, NBC talking head Tom Brokaw and McCain campaign staffer Nicole Wallace were among the big names to attend. Thursday morning's breakfast saw a speech by former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. Then on Thursday afternoon, the Maryland State delegation went out on a riverboat cruise up the Mississippi River. That night, the highlight was clearly John McCain's speech and the balloon drop to close out the convention.

A great time was had by all and there is no doubt all those who had the chance to attend will want to attend in 2012.