

The Kewaunee Trumpet

soundings of the Republican Party of Kewaunee

Published January 2, 2013

Upcoming Events

Kewaunee County Caucus

On Tuesday, January 15 at 6:00 P.M., the Kewaunee County GOP will hold their monthly January meeting followed immediately with the GOP County Caucus at 7:00 P. This meeting will be held at The Kewaunee Inn, 122 Ellis Street, Kewaunee.

Kewaunee Co. Lincoln-Reagan Dinner

Sunday - Mar 3, 2013
Social and Registration 12:00N
Lunch at 1:00P - at The Cork
360 Ellis Street, Kewaunee

GOP 8th District Meeting

Saturday, March 2nd is the date of the 8th Congressional District Caucus. This meeting will be held at The Flyaway in Abrams WI. More details will follow.

WI State Convention

Mark your calendar, May 3-5 the GOP State Convention will be held in Wausau

Kewaunee County Republican Website

Visit our newly redesigned website at:
www.kewauneewigop.com (or)
www.kewauneewigop.org

Opinions Matter

Let us know what your thinking about the Federal, State and local government, call Ron Heuer
920-255-4260

Need a good book?

NEW Conservative Library
Dave Quinlan 920-388-3629

Kewaunee County Board Approves Humiliating Tax Hike! by Ron Heuer

Kewaunee County is over \$17,000,000 in debt. The county tax is one of the highest in the state. The county employees are all getting raises and some finance committee members want to give all board members iPads, with your money of course. Why not? They did just raise your taxes 6%.

We are all too often focused on the National and State issues and don't pay much attention to what is going on right in our back yard. It was a year ago now that I made a decision to run for the District 12, Kew. Co. Supervisor position. I decided to run because I was paying attention to what our board was doing and I wasn't impressed. In fact, it was depressing. I won and have been on the board since April 2012.

I am not a politician as I tend to tell it like it is. I don't mince words, nor do I beat around the bush, I get to the point. I don't mean to be uncharitable, but our county board is not doing their job. They have abdicated their responsibility as a board to the County Administrator. They have spent Kewaunee County into an unenviable position of being one of the highest taxed counties in the state. And what do we have to show for it?

We have new buildings for our County Employees! The totally remodeled Administration Center, the remodeled Courthouse, the brand new Admin Building Annex, the Luxemburg Fairgrounds building and last but not least, the Sheriff's Evidence Storage building (formally Swoboda Clock works). All this for a mere \$17,000,000. All this money is borrowed and now costs the taxpayer \$1.4M in annual debt service. All in, over the term of loans, this debt will cost the county taxpayers over \$23,000,000 including interest.

And the employees? Our board has provided the county employees an 11% increase in salary over the past 4 years, 2010-2013. They have a super retirement plan and a Cadillac health insurance plan. They now pay 6.5% of their retirement and still only pay 10% of their health insurance as they have for the past 20 or so years. Believe it or not, our County Administrator pays nothing for his insurance! Thank you, Kewaunee County Taxpayers!

This is just the tip of the iceberg of poor management. The Highway Department has lost over \$1.1M in the past 3 years. How do they lose money you ask? Our highway department owns and maintains as all the equipment and maintains staff to complete major road construction, resurfacing, road maintenance and snow removal for the county. Well, that would be alright if the county were doing road construction and road maintenance, but in fact, only two townships are giving the

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county road maintenance work, they are West Kewaunee and Lincoln. This for two reasons, according to the township boards, one, they can get the work done by the private sector for less money and, two, the private sector contractors do a better job.

When it comes to snow removal, the county is on the hook with all the employee cost and equipment and, if it doesn't snow, the townships don't pay anything whilst the county is on standby with men, equipment and the equipment maintenance costs.

Now combine this with the bad news of the Kewaunee Nuclear plant shutdown coming in March of 2013 and the fact that this plant closure will directly cost the county \$900,000 in revenue due to the loss of the production credits that were part of the contract with Dominion. Granted in 2013, we won't have to scramble as these payments are accrued a year in advance of payment. However, in 2014, we should expect a shortfall of an estimated \$600,000 and in 2015 and subsequent years the shortfall will be at the \$900,000 shortfall level.

Now, where do you think this current board will come up with the money to make up this shortfall? Do you think they will have the courage to make any cuts? My experience with this current board of supervisors clearly tells me otherwise. Let me explain why. On October 30th, the Kewaunee Board had their annual budget meeting to approve the 2013 budget. I presented 4 motions at this meeting that would have cut money from the 2013 budget, all failed. The first motion was to cut \$114K (increased cost of county employee healthcare) and to have the employees pay their fair share of the health care costs. Remember they have paid 10% for the past 20+ years. This motion failed. The second motion called for \$100K to be cut from the proposed \$167K across the board salary increases for the county employees. My plan would have been to keep \$67,000 for staff that might have been underpaid and to use this \$67K to provide meritorious salary increases. This motion failed. The third motion called for the County Administrator to pay 10% of the cost of his health insurance which would have been \$2,233 (remember he pays nothing). This motion failed. The last motion I put forward was to table the entire budget until such time the County Administrator found \$217K to cut from the budget. This motion failed as well.

Nothing will change in this county until we actually change some of the board members. The board members that voted against any cuts in the 2013 budget were the same board members who enthusiastically voted for the \$17M in spending. Here are your board members that voted against cost cutting measures. Chuck Wagner, Jan Swoboda, Robert Weidner, Bruce Heidmann, Jim Abrahamson, LeVerle Koenig, Charles Hutter, Robert Garfinkel, and Brian Papham.

As a new board member without seniority on the board, I've been appointed to committees that have little control of the budget. So, I have been attending the Highway, Finance and Personnel committee meetings, as those are the committees that control most spending in the budget overall. Each month at the Highway Committee meeting, I ask the same question, "when are you going to make the tough decisions as to what the mission of the Highway Department is going to be in the future"? Each month I have been getting the same answer, "we don't want to move too fast on this". Meantime each month, we continue to spend at the same levels even though we may not have work for all the employees and, we have equipment that is either under utilized or not used at all.

The Finance committee headed up by Chuck Wagner and supported by Jim Abrahamson want to provide iPads for all the 20 County Supervisors. This would be an unnecessary \$8-12K initial expense to the county. We have four or five board members that are not at all computer literate. Plus, we have only one person on the county staff who works in the information systems area that would have to provide support for this. It goes on and on, but boils down to one conclusion, that is, the board needs to be overhauled the next election.

You need to get involved in your local government, attend meetings and let your voice be heard!

Visit the Republican Party Kewaunee County Website at:
<http://www.kewauneevigop.com>

Kewaunee County GOP Membership

It's that time of the year - time to renew your Kewaunee County GOP membership! Membership dues are primarily used locally to promote the Kewaunee County GOP. For your convenience, the application is on the following page. Please follow the instructions for completing application as they appear.

Republican Party of Kewaunee County 2013 Essay Contest - Winners will win \$1,000

The Kewaunee County GOP is sponsoring the second annual Essay Contest for Kewaunee County Student Resident, age 16 - 19 years. The subject of the essay is: *In America there has always been a hope that each new generation will have a better quality of life than the preceding generation. Do you think that your generation will have a better quality of life than your parents? Why or why not?* Registration for this contest can be obtained through the local high school Guidance Counselor offices.

The Future of Conservatism

by: V. J. Pennswright

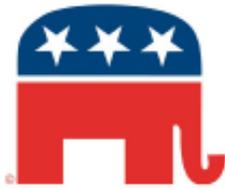
As we lick our wounds from the November Presidential election, we need to keep our spirits up. Sure, it didn't go the way we wanted it to go; however, conservatism is alive and well because if you look at the states' election returns, Republicans now control 30 state governorships and legislatures, leaving 20 other states democrat or third party. How is it that we can win at the state level, you may ask, but not in the big race? Well if we look at the election returns and exit polling data, we can see that Romney had 4,000,000 fewer votes than McCain and Obama had 12,000,000 fewer votes than in 2008, so Obama lost a lot of momentum. What explains Romney's numbers, in my opinion, is that he was not the right person for the job because he was not Conservative enough; however, the choice of Paul Ryan as his running mate was a very good choice. He is young, smart and articulate. I can see Ryan running for President in 2016.

As voters we must be well informed and free to make our own choices, so do not listen to the party elites who told us that Romney was the only one who could beat Obama. I will be honest: I voted for Rick Santorum in the primary because I did my own research on the candidates and I found Santorum to have the best chance at victory. What we need is the perfect candidate for 2016. Someone like Paul Ryan, a brilliant economist and a likeable person. I think Marco Rubio would be another great choice. Ryan/Rubio 2016 would be a formidable team as they are both young, articulate and brilliant. Whoever the nominee in 2016 is, I would offer them this advice: do not use negatively associated words like "capitalism." Try "free market" instead. Listen to the people at rallies. If asked a question, ask a follow up question. Also listen to all media sources and take into consideration what they are saying. For example, our nominee should listen to Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and others--and not just the mainstream media.

Just because Obama won does not mean the end of America, but rather a new beginning. When his term is up people will see Liberalism for what it is, and they are not going to be happy. This gives conservatives a golden chance to distance themselves from liberals by saying, "This is what they stand for. We have seen this for 8 years and are you happy now? Is your life better?" Conservatives can then explain what we stand for and what we can offer. Conservatives need to stand by their principals and convince the people that they are what our country deserves. I know many people in my generation voted for Obama because of what he said and they fell into his trap. Now when my generation is fully immersed into the work force, they will find out it is not what Obama promised and will hopefully come to their senses.

“You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else.” - Winston Churchill

Visit the Republican Party Kewaunee County Website at:
<http://www.kewauneewigop.com>



Republican Party of Kewaunee County

2013 Membership Application

E3530 Townline Road
Kewaunee, WI 54216
(920) 388-4501

www.kewauneewigop.com
www.facebook.com/groups/rpofkc
ronheuer@gmail.com

Name and Address

First Name Last Name Spouse Name

Address City Zip Code

Phone Email (for timely updates and newsletter distribution)

Employer Name & Address – If contributing over \$100

Membership Dues (Please Check One)

Student or Military (Full-time):
\$10.00 single / \$15.00 couple

Lincoln:
\$105.00 single / \$200.00 couple

Regular:
\$15.00 single / \$25.00 couple

Reagan:
\$250 or more for single or couple

Sustaining:
\$55.00 single / \$100.00 couple

Mail to: **Republican Party of Kewaunee County**
C/O Bank of Luxemburg
630 Main Street
Luxemburg, WI 54217

*No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers.
– Ronald Reagan*

Volunteerism (Please All that Apply)

Yes! I am interested in volunteering:

Events (Lincoln/Reagan Dinner, County Caucus, Picnics, etc.)

Activities (Fair Booth, Parades, etc.)

Campaign (Yard Signs, Literature Drops, Computer Work, Host Meet & Greet, etc.)

Other (Serve/Chair a RPKC Committee, Write Letters to Editor, or please specify:

If couple membership, please indicate which member(s) are interested in volunteering: