



The YOUNG REPUBLICAN



April, 2006

Vol. 2, No. 1

The Official Newsletter Of The Young Republican National Federation

What's The Latest in Your Region?

MIDWEST

St. Louis, MO - More than 125 Young Republicans participated in over 10 hours of intensive campaign and grassroots training at the YRNF's Midwest Grassroots Leadership Conference in February. Speakers included two-time presidential fundraiser Jack Oliver, John Yob, California political strategist Mark Abernathy, and Roman Buhler, an expert in grassroots organizing. Many attendees said this was one of the best training weekends they had ever attended.

"The goal of the conference was to equip YR leaders for the upcoming campaign year. Everyone in attendance left energized and well prepared to support Republican ideals in the upcoming campaign season!" said YRNF Midwest Regional Vice Chairman Tamara Baker.

At the Saturday night dinner, YRs held a special Valentine's Day straw poll by placing conversation heart candies in the Valentine's bag of their favorite contender. Each attendee was allowed one vote and Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) edged ahead of Senator John McCain (R-AZ) by 2.5 percent.

Results were as follows:

Senator Sam Brownback 28.5%

Senator John McCain 26%

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YRs Gather with Congressional Leaders at YRNF Reception in Washington

For what she described as a successful step in the two year fundraising process, YRNF Chairman Nicolee Ambrose publicly thanked the many, many people who worked together to plan and put on the first YRNF reception during the current term.

"To have an impressive event in a prestigious DC location like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a wonderful way to start branding the YRNF," Chairman Ambrose said. "It could not have happened without the hard work of YRs from across the nation." Chairman Ambrose was particularly thankful to the District



California Congressman Devin Nunes addresses YRNF Chairman Nicolee Ambrose and the crowd attending the Chamber event.



From left to right, YRNF Assistant Secretary Jessica Colon, YRNF General Counsel Gineen Bresso Beach, YR Alumni Network Founding Member Charlie Black and YRNF NE Fundraising Director Frank Sensenbrenner enjoy the February 15th event at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia YRs who worked so hard to pull together the logistics of the event.

Chairman Ambrose emceed the event which was highlighted by speeches from members of Congress including Devin Nunes (CA), Nancy Johnson (CT), and Mike Sodrel (IN). Congressional candidate and YR Dan Zubari (MD) also spoke.

The invitation to the event listed 22 Members of Congress, led by Majority Leader John Boehner (OH). YRNF Assistant Treasurer Brian Graham chaired the event organization. Former RNC chairs Senator Bill (and wife Sandy) Brock and Frank Fahrenkopf lent their names as

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YRs Triumph on the Field

Answer to the Age-Old Questions Revealed: Who are the Better Athletes ~ YRs or YDs?

In the States of New York and Missouri, the Young Republicans (YRs) went nose to nose with the Young Democrats (YDs) -- on the Athletic Field that is.



The Staten Island YRs celebrate victory, over the YDs.

In the name of exercise and a little good old fashioned fun, the Young Republicans of Staten Island, New York, suited up and took pride in a big win, 8 touchdowns to 0, over the YDs in a touch-football game. The game, held on the morning of Super Bowl Sunday, drew crowds and potential members to Miller Field. This YR Club, encompassing one borough of New York City, works on campaigns in and around the area and cultivates the candidates of the future. As a recently reorganized group, the Richmond County (Staten Island) Young Republicans hit the ground running, ensuring that our Party was well represented by donning red shirts.

Brendan Lantry, president of the Richmond County Young Republicans said, "I was very happy with the outcome.... We definitely didn't try to rub it in their faces."

Both organizations hope to make this get-together an annual event, to one day not only ben-

efit these two Clubs, but also local charities.

Similarly, the St. Louis Young Republicans challenged the local YDs to a charity softball challenge. The main goal being to help abused and neglected children in their area. These young political activists from both sides of the aisle picked up their gloves and bats and met at Forest Park. They raised money for Our Little Haven, a residential treatment facility for infants and children through seven years of age.

A free BBQ after the game and voluntary donations kept the atmosphere light and fun.

"This was an exciting event where both groups can come together for a good cause," said Monica Durrwachter, President of the St. Louis Area Young Republicans.

For more information on the two groups, visit their websites at WWW.YOUNGREPUBLICANS.INFO OR WWW.STLYR.COM.

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A special thanks to Maryland YR Rex Reed of Amberlea Photography & Design for designing this newsletter: Rex@Amberleafarm.com

Maryland Lt. Governor Michael Steele Presented with YRNF Resolution

Maryland YR President Georgia Woerner presented Maryland Lt. Governor Michael Steele with the resolution entitled Resolution regarding the discriminatory actions against Maryland Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele that was adopted at the YRNF National Board Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas in November.



Maryland YR Exec. VP Rex Reed, Maryland YR President Georgia Woerner, Lt. Governor Michael Steele and YRNF Chair Nicolee Ambrose were on hand for the presentation.

support of the local, state and national YRs and strongly condemned the racist actions perpetrated against him

by the Black Caucus of the Maryland Legislature.

On hand for the presentation at the annual MYR hospitality suite at the Maryland GOP Fall Convention in Columbia, Maryland, was YRNF Chair Nicolee Ambrose, and several packed hotel rooms of YRs and State Party officials. Steele gladly accepted the resolution and praised the YRs on their continued and vigorous support of him and the Party.

Steele also took this occasion to announce that MYR Joe Cluster would be serving as Field Director for his upcoming U.S. Senate Campaign -- a campaign that is sure to be one of the most closely watched in the country!

YRNF Reception in Washington, Continued from page 1.

hosts as did Charlie Black.

“To put the YRNF name across 1,000 desks in DC with 22 members of Congress as supporters is a critical step in raising this organization to a new level in national Republican politics,” observed Co-Chairman Tim Kolpien. “So this event was as much, if not more about raising awareness and credibility, as about raising money. We thank all the YRs across the country who contacted their members and brought them on board. This event demonstrated how much we bring to the table when we all work together.”

In addition to Washington insiders, Young Republicans from Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia attended the event.



YRs gather at the end of the Reception.



Rep. Mike Sodrel (IN).



Rep. Nancy Johnson (CT).

State Spotlight - Ohio! Ohio! Ohio!

With over 11 clubs and more than 500 members throughout the state, the Ohio Young Republicans have made great strides in attracting new members into their organization. This very active federation has used their numbers to reach out to elected officials and to continue the great tradition they have embodied since the 1930's.

This organization is 75 years young and still growing strong. They continuously cultivate the leaders of the future, by holding campaign schools and leadership conferences which focus on fundraising, event planning, and campaign organization, among other topics.

In addition to their constant momentum, the Ohio YRs also cherish the history of our national organization. Ohio YRs are proud that the Young Republican National Federation was founded in Cleveland in 1936. They will commemorate this 70th birthday by hosting the YRNF Summer Meeting (July 7th -9th) in Cleveland. Many great events have already been scheduled, including an evening at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

As a model for all YR Clubs across our great Nation, the Ohio YRs have a great relationship with our state's elected officials. Just last month at their state convention, Ohio's Auditor Betty Montgomery, Attorney General Jim Petro, Secretary of State Ken Blackwell, Speaker of the House of Representatives & YR Jon Husted, and Congressmen Bob Ney & Pat Tiberi all addressed the crowd.

Ohio Young Republican Chairman Heather Harlow said, "I am so proud of what the Ohio YRs have



Ohio YRs meet with RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman after a meeting in Columbus.

accomplished and look forward to working with our members to do so much more in the future. As we look toward state-wide elections in November, we have a great opportunity to grow our membership and work to keep Republicans in all of the state-wide elected offices."

A common goal that all YR Organizations have is to help get Republicans elected to office, and the Ohio YRs are no different. Just a few of the YRs elected to office are State Chairman Heather Harlow, Fiscal Officer for Colerain Township (a suburb of Cincinnati), State Senator Steve Stivers (who also just returned from a tour of duty serving in Iraq), & Joe Birmingham, elected to Toledo City Council this past fall.

Former Chairman Nick Waffhoff states, "Much of the planning of Joe's race took place poolside during the 2005 YRNF Convention in Las Vegas."

To further the Republican

cause, the Ohio YRs are most proud of the numerous service projects they participate in. Just this spring, members donated and put together CARE packages to be sent to troops serving overseas. The Toledo Metro Area Young Republicans held another successful Ronald Reagan Birthday party, where the proceeds benefited the Alzheimer's Foundation.

The hard work of the Ohio Young Republicans has not gone unnoticed. Young Republican National Federation Chairman Nicolee Ambrose said, "The Ohio YRs are a fantastic example of an outstanding Young Republican organization. They're enthusiastic, fun, and ever-passionate about our beliefs, our history and our party. I'm proud that they are apart of us and I'm proud of their constant efforts to spread our GOP principles and ideals."

YRNF Co-Chairman Tim Kolpien states, "The Ohio Young Republicans continue to set the bar

Georgia YR Leaders Assist with Bush Visit

From parking lot duty to assisting as drivers in the President's motorcade, more than a dozen of Georgia's Young Republican leaders helped to make President George W. Bush's March 9 visit to Atlanta a complete success.

Young Republicans made up most of the drivers for President Bush with six drivers from the Buckhead Young Republican Club alone. Buckhead Young Republican Erin Dolan said, "It was a long, tiring day, but having the chance to be part of the President's motorcade is something I'll never forget!"

Other Young Republicans who volunteered for the President's

visit were Doug Grammer, GFYRC State Chairman; Stacy Morrow, Chairman of the Catoosa County YRs; Brad Scott, Catoosa County YR member; Dr. Dana Gordon, GFYRC National Committeewoman; Jay Clayton, Membership Chairman of the Buckhead Young Republicans; Agnes Csizinszky, Buckhead YR

Social Chair; and Stephanie Milner, Buckhead YR Historian.



Georgia YRs with Atlanta PD Officer pose in front of the President's limo.

State Spotlight - Ohio, Continued from Page 4.

for other State YR Organizations and what levels of success can be achieved. They're strong in numbers, committed to our cause and through their actions, continue to do justice for the Young Republican name."

Another staple of the Ohio YRs' successes goes to the mass amounts of volunteer help spread out during the 2004 Bush-Cheney Campaign. As was predicted long ago by NBC's *Meet the Press* host Tim Russert, the election of President Bush came down to three words: "Ohio, Ohio, Ohio." The Ohio Young Republicans were in the thick of the battle of their hotly contested state.

During their Toledo Convention in May of 2004, all participants made phone calls for the President and attended a rally for the Bush-Cheney ticket, where media coverage was heavy. They also organized

support for the Vice President during his debate in Cleveland. During the spring and summer, the Ohio Young Republicans put together a voter registration drive to benefit the campaign. Their members registered voters at gun shows, professional wrestling events, county fairs, and in suburban neighborhoods throughout the state. For their efforts, the Republican National Committee awarded the Ohio YRs the President's Circle Award in recognition of their dedication to voter registration and for their tireless efforts to grow the Republican Party.

In response to the Move-On.org "Vote for Change" tour, the Ohio Young Republicans organized another rally to show support for the President & his policies. At the rally YRs were joined by "Flip-Flop": a giant flip-flop sandal that called attention to John Kerry's ever changing positions.

As election day approached, many members worked as poll watchers, but many other Ohio YRs were charged with organizing and running the "Get Out the Vote PDA Program." In 19 targeted counties, the Ohio Young Republicans recorded who voted on PDAs. This information was used to make phone calls and visits to those who had yet to vote and to track voter turnout. In every one of our targeted counties, President Bush received more votes than he did in 2000.

Whether it's training their local clubs on effective ways to campaign and get out the vote, or working the front lines of the national campaign trail using what they've learned, the Ohio YRs have a rich history and bright future ahead of them.

All Young Republicans can learn more about the Ohio YRs by going to Cleveland for the YRNF Summer Meeting, July 7 - 9th!

Regional Updates, *Continued from Page 1*

Gov. Mike Huckabee 12%
 Sec. Condeleeza Rice 12%
 Sen. George Allen 8.5%
 Undecided 2.5%
 Hon. Rudy Giuliani 2%
 Hon. Newt Gingrich 2%

Candidates not receiving votes were: Senator Bill Frist, US Rep. Tom Tancredo, Gov. Mitt Romney, Sen. Rick Santorum, Gov. George Pataki.

“This, by far, was the best political training session I have ever attended,” said Indiana Young Republican State Chairman Glenn Murphy. “I have attended a lot of training meetings, hosted by political groups of all ages and types, but this weekend blew them away.”

Young Republicans are a nationwide network of 18-40 year olds who are active in local, state, and national politics serving in roles from elected officials to concerned citizens. Details and photos of the conference are posted at www.MissouriYR.com.

If you have any comments or questions for our Midwestern Regional Vice Chair, please email Tamara Baker at Midwest@yrnf.com.

NORTHEASTERN

The Northeast Regional Summit was the weekend of March 24-26th in Salem, Massachusetts. YRs in attendance networked with fellow GOPers from across the region. Breakout sessions and speakers made the weekend a fantastic success.

Eight states from the region were represented, including Vermont, whom the YRNF is working to charter. The Friday night event was capped-off with the comedic styling



YRs pause for a photo, during the Midwest Leadership Conference.

of D. Anthony Sullivan. D. Anthony is a conservative YR who does stand-up for a "semi-living." He had the attendees in stitches.

YRNF Co-chairman Tim Koli-pien spoke at breakfast on Saturday, updating the Northeast YRs on YRNF business and focused on the upcoming effort to recruit YRs to volunteer for the 2006 campaign season. The day continued with breakout sessions consisting of: YRs Running for Office: Matt Wylie, MA GOP Executive Director; Tim Koli-pien. They both provided insight and encouragement to YRs in attendance, to help them get involved at all levels of government. Matt Wylie stated, “YRs are the heart and soul of how we (the Republican party) will win elections across the country.” Marketing: Alicia Preston of Meridian Communications, Press Secretary to NH Gov. Craig Benson. Discussed the importance of working with the media as a candidate and YR organization. Two issues-based sessions were led by YRs. Effect of European Law on the Supreme Court presented by Carolyn Kim. Ms. Kim led a conversation with attendees on how our Supreme Court has referenced European law. The second panel was Healthcare, presented by MFYR National Committeewoman Karen Sautter. Ms. Sautter shared the facts

about our current healthcare system. YR Club Growth and Development featured a panel of YRs from large and small clubs who shared information and best practices about starting a YR club, recruiting members, raising money, and promoting your club. Bridging the Gap from CRs to YRs: CR leaders from the region joined YRs at the Summit to discuss ways we can bridge the gap and keep CRs involved in the Republican Party. Growing a Grassroots Team: Roman Buhler led a discussion about getting people involved and growing a grassroots team. He encouraged attendees to reach out to Republicans and to those who are not yet Republicans. He spread a message that it is important to ask everyone personally to join the group and get involved.

Attendees had lunch with Charles Baker, president and CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc., former MA Secretary of Administration and Finance and Secretary of Health and Human Services. He currently serves on the MA Board of Education.

Attendees could also participate on a conference call with YRNF Secretary Glenn Murphy for State Chairs to learn more about the YRMS. An evening of Texas Hold 'Em, blackjack, roulette, and picnion-

Regional Updates, *Continued from Page 6*

ary kept YRs busy.

At breakfast on Sunday, GOP Lt Governor candidate Reed Hillman made his first public appearance. Conservative talk-show host Michael Graham also handicapped the 2008 Presidential Race, and then signed books afterwards. In the Presidential Straw poll, first place taker was Governor Mitt Romney, second came Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, and in third was Governor Mike Huckabee.

If you have any comments or questions for our Northeastern Regional Vice Chair, please email Adrienne Mitford at Northeast@yrf.com.

SOUTHERN

Building upon this success, Young Republicans took on the Southern Republican Leadership Conference the weekend of March 11th-13th in Memphis, Tennessee. At SRLC, YRs hosted several Presidential contenders and YR Alumni from around the country.

The Southern Region sponsored a booth at the SRLC. Southern Regional Vice Chair Clay Barclay told about the weekend, "We were honored to host Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, Senator George Allen of Virginia and Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas. Each of these Republican statesmen visited the booth, spoke and took individual pictures with the large crowds in attendance. Governor Huckabee did several on air interviews while wearing his YRNF sticker!"

Flyers were passed out and attendance was great. Chairman Ambrose attended and spoke to Southern YR leaders about the suc-



Washington County Young Republicans (Oregon) at State of the Union Party this year.

cess the organization has had over the past eight months. She also discussed the new YR Management System, which will allow states to keep track of their members from one administration to the next. It will also allow them to target emails to members and clubs. Chairman Ambrose and Regional Vice Chair Clay Barclay visited with Senator Frist who is committed to helping to grow the YRNF. Co-Chairman Tim Kolpien attended and discussed the YRNF's campaign goals and plans for the elections in 2006.

"SRLC was a fantastic time for YRs to network with our senior Party and brand the YRNF. I'm proud of the attendance and the effort that went into the sponsored YR booth. With hard work like this, the YRNF will be recognized for the potent, nationwide grassroots organization that we know we are!" Chairman Ambrose stated.

If you have any comments or questions for our Southern Region Vice Chair, please email Clay Barclay at Southern@yrf.com.

WESTERN

The Western Region is discussing an upcoming regional meeting or retreat, to compliment the others that occurred around the Country.

The options they're exploring include: San Diego in 2007 which is the next RNC Regional Leadership Conference, but will most likely be less than 60 days after the Miami YRNF convention. Other options include organizing a retreat at whatever time of the year is deemed best (i.e. winter for skiing or summer on the beach or next to a lake). Housing and food/drinks would ideally be covered, transportation would be left to those attending, the location would be economical, and everyone in the region could fly in from major hubs.

Please also check out the last two pages of the "Young Republic" for more updates on the Western Region.

Please email your comments and questions to Jonathan Burley, YRNF Western Vice-Chairman, at western@yrf.com.

Chairman's Column... *The State of the YRNF*

Greetings! In this second edition of the "Young Republic," I'd like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on the tasks of the Young Republican National Federation (YRNF) and our accomplishments in the past months.

We've continued to operate in high gear since our Fall Board Meeting, held in Arkansas. On February 15th, we held a fundraiser at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce with 22 Members of Congress as Special Guests. In the past two months, we've held Regional Summits across the country, we've made our new Young Republican Management System (YRMS) available to all YR organizations, and we've been diligently working on our 5-day biennial Leadership Conference (YRLC). Let's take a deeper look inside...

As mentioned, our Fall Board Meeting was held at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. We originally had this meeting scheduled to be hosted by the Greater New Orleans Young Republicans in Louisiana, but because of the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we were forced to change locations. Yet even with the location change, YRs from across the country still attended this great event. With a reception hosted by former Undersecretary of Homeland Security and Congressman Asa Hutchinson, dinner with Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, a tour of the William Jefferson Clinton Library and grassroots leadership seminars, the weekend could not have been more successful. A special thanks to the Arkansas YRs for their hard work

in making this meeting a reality ~ and quickly!

With 22 Members of Congress lending their names to our invitation as Special Guests, the YRNF held a fundraiser on February 15th at the prestigious U.S. Chamber of Congress in Washington, D.C. YRs



from across the country attended this event and we were graced with great speakers such as Congressman Devin Nunes (CA), Congresswoman Nancy Johnson (CT), and Congressman Mike Sodrel (IN). Thanks to all YRs who helped make this event a great success.

Our four regions, which make up the YRNF, are the core of our organization's structure. We function through these regions, which makes communicating through the Regional Vice Chairs and Regional Directors quite efficient. Since our last meeting, the YRNF held three fantastic Regional meetings throughout the country: Massachusetts, Tennessee and Missouri. Our Regional Vice Chairs are also focusing on chartering the few states that are not yet chartered with the YRNF. We are working hard on jump-starting and growing these clubs locally and

statewide to further our Republican ideals. Kudos to our Regional Vice-Chairs and Regional Directors for all of their hard work and dedication to the YRNF.

In our last newsletter, I told you about our overhaul of our website, with the main goal being to create a tool and resource for our member clubs, as well as a site to visit for up-to-date information on the goings on of the YRNF. Press releases, news articles, event updates, photos, contact information, and links to contribute to and join the YRNF are some other parts of our website, www.YRNF.com. Today, I can let you know that we've also designed and implemented a new Young Republican Management System (YRMS). This is a tool for all clubs. To give a few examples, clubs can keep track of their membership and update our national website with new club contact info by changing and editing their contact information. YRMS is a state of the art information center that our YRs can use, free of charge.

Our efforts as a nationwide organization have had an impact everywhere. Spanning the United States, many YRs were elected to office this past November and we're very proud of their races and victories. Our ability to successfully produce candidates and make a difference in campaigns and communities is remarkable! We will continue our work to better our nation and our Grand Old Party.

Nicolee

State Updates: YRs Excited for a Busy 2006

Alabama: Young Republican Federation of Alabama (YRFA) members are working on the campaigns of many active YRs. The YRFA is fielding candidates for State Senate, State House, State Attorney General and State Auditor.

Alaska: Alaska YRs recently hosted their annual YR Dance and Fundraiser. YRs are planning campaign strategies for the upcoming election cycle in East Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, and Peninsula seats, as well as retaining the Governor's mansion. Josh Applebee is Chairman.

Arkansas: YRs will help Asa Hutchinson rollout his job plan for younger Arkansans at the CR State Convention on April 8. YRs will host their 2nd Annual Reagan Rally at the Albert Pike Hotel where GOP gubernatorial candidate Asa Hutchinson will be the keynote speaker. Leslie Rutledge is Chairman.

California: CYRs are busy campaigning to re-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger, recruiting new members and chartering new clubs. Zack Scrivner, YRNF Vice-Chairman At-Large, is running for re-election to city council, and former YRNF Chairman, Kevin McCarthy, will be running to fill Congressman Bill Thomas' vacated seat. Catherine Brinkman is Chairman.

Colorado: In March, YRs attended neighborhood precinct caucuses. As one of the few states who still use the Caucus system, this was a great opportunity for YRs to participate at the grassroots level and to work to take back the state legislature and put it in the "Right" hands. YRs are also in the process of chartering a new club. Jay Klinkerman is Chairman.

Connecticut: Connecticut Young Republicans have held regional socials in an effort to increase membership throughout the state. YRs are excited to work this Fall to re-elect mentor Congresswoman Nancy Johnson. The next statewide YR meeting is this Spring. Jerry Schwab is Chairman.

Florida: The Florida Federation of Young Republicans (FFYR) hosted their Annual Alumni Reagan Day Dinner in Orlando. The Spring quarterly was held March 30th – April 1st, with a great series of events; a meeting with Governor Jeb Bush, tour of

the Governor's mansion, lunch with Commissioner of Agriculture Bronson, dinner with a Senator Fasano, along with meeting proceedings which were held in the House Chambers. Jon Woodward is Chairman.

Georgia: YRs have been busy holding candidate training, planning an upcoming legislation appreciation dinner, and attending SRLC in Memphis. U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson taped a welcome message for 2009 YRNC Georgia bid. YRs drove in the President's motorcade on March 9th during a visit to Atlanta. Doug Grammer is Chairman.

Hawaii: YRNF leadership has established new contacts in Hawaii and we are working to get this state re-chartered sometime this year. If you know of anyone of YR age in Hawaii, please forward his or her contact info to the YRNF office.

Idaho: YRs elected new officers at their annual convention. After serving many years as State Chairman of the organization, Mike Willits passed the gavel to Jayson Ronk. Wayne Hoffman was elected National Committeeman and Samantha Pisca was elected National Committeewoman. Currently, YRs are planning their annual Spring Fling, where the YR of the Year will be named. Jayson Ronk is Chairman.

Indiana: Clubs are making voter id calls every week through the May primary. Each club has a goal of 3,000 calls. YRs are kicking off their voter registration drive, with walk in the 9th Congressional District. Raising funds for the YRNC bid for 2009 - Indy2009, the convention committee has launched the 100Hundred campaign, which seeks 100 Young Republicans to give \$100 to be matched by major donors. YRs are also working on new clubs in Lake, Harrison, Warrick and Monroe Counties. Glenn Murphy is Chairman.

Louisiana: The Louisiana Young Republican Federation (LYRF) participated in SRLC in Memphis. YRs are working on contacting voters displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, yet who are still eligible to vote in New Orleans. To request absentee ballots by mail, voters must complete and return an Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot. Please contact your home parish

Registrar of Voters office or the Louisiana Secretary of State Elections Division by email at elections@sos.louisiana.gov or at 1-800-883-2805. Stephen Gele is Chairman.

Maine: We continue to organize and expand our membership around the State, with the goal of having an active chapter in each of Maine's 16 counties before year's end. YRs will help Republicans gain the majority in both the State Senate and House, the 1st and 2nd Districts of the U.S. Congress, and ensure the re-election of Maine's Senior Senator, Olympia J. Snowe.

Maryland: Maryland Young Republicans (MYR) are preparing for two major campaigns: the re-election of Governor Bob Ehrlich, and the U.S. Senate campaign of Michael Steele. At the last MD GOP convention, MYRs presented Lt. Governor Steele with a copy of the resolution the YRNF National Committee passed on his behalf. Since then, MYRs hosted a legislative reception Annapolis and the Montgomery County Club restarted its tradition of hosting a black tie ball to benefit a charity – raising over \$1,500 for Operation Homefront. Georgia Kay Woerner is Chairman.

Massachusetts: YRs hosted State of the Union watching party and more recently hosted YRNF's Northeast Region Summit. YRs from ME, VT, CT, NY, PA, DC descended on Salem, MA, and enjoyed networking and learning from each other during the breakout sessions/activities. YRs are also hosting a reception for the Massachusetts GOP's 2006 Convention in Lowell and a Health Care Forum, with President and CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Charlie Baker. Karl Burns is Chairman.

Missouri: YRs have been focused on the Special State Senate election - April 4th for YR Scott T. Rupp. Throughout the state, local meetings have been concentrated on the stem cell issue as Missouri has a first in the nation petition drive to outlaw some forms of this research. These meetings have been drawing strong media attention and larger than usual crowds. Gus Wagner is Chairman.

Montana: State Rep Jon Sonju of Kalispell, a YR from the Flathead Valley,

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State Updates, Continued from Page 9.

filed for reelection. Rep. Sonju has had an effective tenure in the Legislature, and was recently featured in the National Journal's Hot line, their "exclusive look at the up-and-comers in every party in every state." Other YR candidates include Joe Defilippis in Helena and Mark Blasdel from Somers in the Flathead Valley. Charles Robison is State Chairman.

Nevada: YRs have been busy recruiting and building up our member base in both Northern and Southern Nevada, in addition to gearing up for the November elections. Jennifer Baldwin is State Chairwoman.

New Hampshire: YRs are still riding the glory of victory after YR Frank Guinta was elected Mayor of Manchester. Building on that momentum, YRs started new subchapters in the state's most liberal areas and local leaders are excited to know they have YRs to help achieve victory in November. On Saturday, April 29th, YRs from across the Granite State will gather for their Annual Meeting. BJ Perry is Chairman.

New York: YRs held their Annual YR Holiday Dinner, attended by YRs from across the nation. In March, YRs held a Leadership Conference and Annual Teddy Roosevelt Award Dinner, attended by 90 + YRs, GOP statewide candidates, and elected officials. The state is busy revamping its website, continuing to build county clubs (Rockland, Dutchess & Oneida) and raising funds. The state paid for membership mailings for Brooklyn and Westchester clubs and is working with other counties to complete their mailings. Jason Weingartner is Chairman.

North Carolina: YRs are in the trenches as May 2nd primary election approaches. NCFYR held its annual convention on March 25th and elected the following officers: Chairman Kathryn Atkinson; National Committeewoman Laura Harvey Linderman; National Committeeman Sam Morse; Vice Chairman Kim Cotton; Treasurer

Jennifer Behr; Secretary Dan Cote. Former State Chair Frank Williams (1997-1999) completed a new web site www.ncyoungrepublicans.com

Northern Mariana Islands: Kimo Rosario and Ed Arriola, Jr. are working with the YRNF to charter the Islands. The Northern Mariana Islands were just recognized by the RNC in 2004 and as a result they are very eager to get a young professional Republican movement established in the Islands.

Oregon: YRs joined California YRs to go door-to-door supporting Governor Schwarzenegger's ballot initiatives in November, while others worked to defeat a mayoral recall back home. OYRs increased their influence in the state central committee by now having eight YRs in voting positions, several more in key nonvoting positions, and two county chairmen! YRs are assisting the governor's race, as it's one of the top targeted races for a GOP pickup in 06! OYRs are looking forward to turning this blue state, red! Marc Lucca is Chairman.

Pennsylvania: YRs continue to focus on increasing club membership and chartering new clubs. The Philadelphia chapter held a successful Gubernatorial candidates night with over 500 YRs and members of the Senior Party in attendance. We're preparing for Senator Rick Santorum's re-election campaign and our eye is on bringing a Republican Governor to Harrisburg. June 9-11 will be the State YR Convention.

Tennessee: YR Joe Baker appears poised to win the nod for the District Attorney in the 4th Judicial District. 30 states were represented at SRLC, held in Memphis. At least nine presidential hopefuls attended. Hardball broadcasted live from the lobby of The Peabody Hotel everyday. Hosts of volunteers worked together to make it one of the best events of it kind. YR Howie Acuff of Cookeville launched a campaign for State House. YR Eric Watson won back the Republican State House Seat that a Democrat

had resigned from. YRs have t-shirts on sale for \$15 short sleeve, \$20 long sleeve in both L and XL. To purchase, contact National Committeewoman Stephanie Hundley at stephanie@threds.com.

Utah: YRs have a new website (<http://www.youngutgop.org>), active members in three counties, and are in the process of chartering two new clubs. Many of our YRs are actively running for Republican Party offices at the precinct level and will be active in our primary caucus system. Andrew Stephenson is the new State Chairman.

Virginia : YRs held their annual convention in Virginia Beach - anchored by seminars and roundtable discussions geared toward training, messaging and club development. Raea Leinster resigned her position due to professional obligations. 1st Vice Chair, Lori-Ann Smith of Arlington has assumed the Chairmanship. YRFV State Rep, Chris Marston organized efforts to secure passage of a bill to amend VA's election law, providing for registration by party and closed primaries. YRs continue to work with Senator Allen's campaign to collect petition signatures and with other Republican candidates.

Washington: YRs held their annual convention on March 11, where they revised their platform. At lunch, former U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese spoke. At dinner, Jeff Gunnoe was awarded Man of the Year, Cathy Torkelson was awarded Woman of the Year, and King County became Club of the Year. YRs have chartered an additional club in the King County area. Locally, YR members are involved in several campaigns. Melissa Munzi is State Chairwoman.

Wyoming: YRNF leadership has established new contacts in Wyoming and are working to get this state re-chartered this year. If you know of anyone of YR age in Wyoming, please forward his or her contact info to the YRNF office.

And Now... The Thank You Box:

*A very special thanks to YRLC Chair Rachel Hoff, YRLC Co-Chair Rachael Gingrich, and the entire YRLC Committee for making this biennial conference a grand success!
Thanks to the members of the Communications Committee for all of their hard work on this newsletter.*