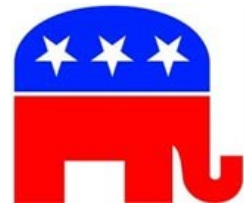


# Republicans of River City



Chartered by the California Congress of Republicans

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**IMPORTANT MEETING IN JUNE**

## **EYE ON SACRAMENTO PRESIDENT CRAIG POWELL WILL SPEAK TO REPUBLICANS OF RIVER CITY ON**

**June 21, 2011 at Mimi's Restaurant, located at:  
2029 Alta Arden Way  
Sacramento, 95825**

**The social hour starts at 6:30 PM and the general meeting starts at 7:15 PM.**



### **EYE ON SACRAMENTO PRESIDENT CRAIG POWELL SPEAKER AT RRC MEETING**

**By Carl Burton**

Eye on Sacramento takes its role as a watchdog of local Sacramento government very seriously. The Watchdog Unit scrutinizes the actions and policy development in local government. EOS volunteers monitor governing bodies by reviewing meeting agendas and staff reports, questioning staff prior to meetings, appearing and testifying at meetings of governing bodies and committees and conferring regularly with elected officials and staff on pending or proposed matters.

The Watchdog Unit also initiate inquiries into matters of public interest or concern by requesting and reviewing government documents, either cooperatively or through formal public records requests filed under the California Public Records Act which mandates the release of public records. EOS volunteer Rick Stevenson currently serves as Public Records Requests Coordinator for the Watchdog Unit, initiating record requests and monitoring government compliance with such requests.

Eye on Sacramento then alerts the community on matters of importance involving local government through an array of media: newspaper and magazine articles, e-newsletters, e-mail alerts, web postings, You-Tube videos and regular blogging on Facebook and Twitter.

To find out more information about Eye on Sacramento, attend our June 21 meeting of Republicans of River City at Mimi's Restaurant, located at:2029 Alta Arden Way, Sacramento, 95825.

## REPUBLICAN COUNTY FAIR BOOTH A SUCCESS

By Carl Burton

The theme of the Republicans of River City booth at the Sacramento County Fair was a celebration of President Ronald Reagan's 100th Birthday (Feb 6, 1911).

I can't begin to count the number of visitors to the County Fair who stopped at our River City booth and said "He was a great President" or "the Best President" or "I wish he was still alive so I could vote for him" and "I wish he was still President." Many others gave us a thumbs up as they walked past our booth. A few asked to have their picture taken with our cut-out of President Reagan. Our theme presented a positive image of the Republican Party and its beliefs because, just like President Reagan we believe:

- the strength of our nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored;
- in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability;
- that free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity;
- that government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn;
- the proper role of government

is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations, and that the best government is that which governs least;

- the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people;
- Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times;
- Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

We didn't have one fair visitor tell us we were wrong in our viewpoint once they read our statement of beliefs and principles - the principles of Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt and Reagan.

We also registered a number of Republican voters while we encouraged Republicans to get involved in next years elections.

All of this would not have been possible without the support of local Republicans who opened their checkbooks and gave us the necessary funds to rent the space and order the supplies for our booth. Members of Republicans of Republican City want to thank everyone who contributed to the cost of the booth.

I would also like to thank our members who gave of their time and energy to help staff the booth during the fair: Robert Evans, Janet Garder, Colleen Fitzpatrick,

Lisa Garcia and Pat and Fred Hildebrand.

Here are a few pictures of our booth:



## A NATION OF CITIZENS OR A NATION OF PARTISANS?

By Chris Angle

On the recent Memorial Day weekend, as the country paused to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, it was also worth pausing to consider the state of the country for which they died. Over the last few months, three broad issues have arisen that strongly indicate that America itself is becoming a nation of partisans, rather than a nation of citizens.

The first issue involves collective bargaining rights for public employees. Attempts to roll back these rights by a Republican governor in Wisconsin were met with rallies and op-ed pieces ranging from highly critical to borderline hysterical. However, when a Democrat-controlled House in Massachusetts attempted to roll back some collective bargaining rights, the chattering class was largely silent.

The second issue, Paul Ryan's plan to reform Medicare, also saw a level of scorn and vitriol from opinion leaders in certain quarters that appeared to be highly emotional rather than analytical. It appears that the unforgivable issue was that the plan appeared to ultimately reduce spending on Medicare. While Obama was quick to condemn the plan, nobody seemed interested enough to explain how Obama's plan, with its politically insulated board of experts that will be expected to 'find' (read: force) cost savings, is fundamentally different.

The third issue is the passing of the 60 day mark since the beginning of military action in Libya. Under the 1973 War Power

Resolution, the President has 60 days after the beginning of military action to secure congressional approval for that action. What is rather stunning (some might say disturbing) is the lack of discussion on either side of the political aisle, whether in the halls of Congress or salons of the chattering class. Although the Act also gives the President 30 days to withdraw the troops should he fail to gain approval, meaning that Obama can still plausibly argue that he is still technically in compliance with the legislation, the lack of discussion of this deadline justifies an individual wondering whether anyone takes either the law itself or the Constitution's reservation of power to declare war to Congress seriously.

What all of these issues have in common is that the media and opinion leaders (as opposed to just the politicians) are lining up behind their respective parties as opposed to analyzing the issues on their practical or ideological merits. While charges of 'media bias' are hardly new, it is not clear that the public fully appreciates how damaging it can be over the long term to society. It is not simply that the media stands up for certain 'bad' policies and opposes 'good' policies. Rather it is that with opinion leaders only standing up for certain laws, ideas, and the Constitution when it is something that their 'team' supports, they lessen respect for the idea of law and democratic deliberation. The Constitution is supposed to be our national contract with each other. If people only stand up for it when it is ideologically convenient to do so, then calling something 'constitutional' or 'unconstitutional' will eventually come to mean (if it hasn't already) nothing more than that someone agrees or

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disagrees with a certain action. A 'bad' idea will only mean something that is proposed by the 'other' side.

Without fundamental rules that are agreed upon and defended no matter what, politics becomes a smash-mouth, winner-take-all operation. The law becomes a weapon that some groups use to obtain advantages for themselves at the expense of other groups, rather than a set of rules that allow society to function in a smooth, peaceful, and relatively efficient manner. The longer this goes on, the social trust that holds society together begins to dissolve, as people no longer expect those on the 'other side' to adhere to the rules when it is not convenient for them to do so. Although America has been fortunate throughout its history to have enjoyed a vast reserve of 'social capital', such a reserve is not infinite. Societies around the world that don't have America's social trust reserve tend to be unstable and violent places. By acting as a partisan (doing what he thinks is best for his team) rather than as a citizen (doing what he thinks is best for the country), an opinion leader helps to diminish public trust in the institutions supporting and sustaining the country. The country is preparing to face multiple serious challenges in the years ahead, and excessive partisanship (as opposed to honest debate) is a luxury we can't afford. As Abraham Lincoln noted, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand'. Partisans should remember this as they pause to remember those who died Memorial Day.



## WE ARE THE PARTY THAT IS FOR EDUCATION

By Carl Burton

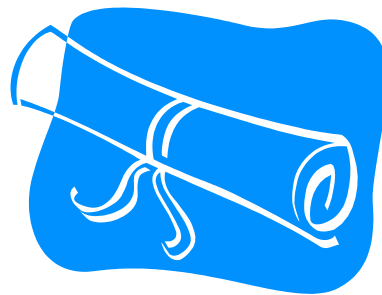
The education of today's youth is where, as Republicans, we can make a positive contribution to the needs of all Americans. That's why we have the River City Education Association - to get involved in the education of the generation that will guide our future.

California can no longer afford to graduate students who are functionally illiterate. We are producing a permanent underclass of California citizens. We should not have to import workers from other countries to fill the education gap and take jobs that our graduates should be taught to fill. At the present time the functionally illiterate are filling our prisons instead of our jobs and, thus, are marginalized from society.

The public debate on education centers around those who claim that there is a lack of money and resources for our public schools and those who say the money isn't being spent on the students but on administrators. Either way, solutions will work out at the ballot box and this is where we, as Republicans, can make a difference by running for and winning school board seats.

Republicans need to get involved in what is going on at our schools. We need to encourage parents, students and teachers to work to improve all of our schools from kindergarten to post-graduate college. We know that we must be active participants in all of our schools to have good schools and productive citizens.

America does not promise equal results but it does hold fourth the promise of equal opportunity. As Republicans we are for equal opportunity for all Americans.



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your membership in Republicans of River City provides you a monthly newsletter, speakers, and an outstanding opportunity to meet your elected officials and California's finest political strategists. River City is also a great way to network and make new friends.

I am a registered Republican and would like to join Republicans of River City.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Membership: enclosed is my check for \$25 (Young Professionals 18-25 \$15 per person)

\_\_\_\_\_ Couples Membership: enclosed is our check for \$40

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to: **Republicans of River City**  
P. O. Box 1776,  
Carmichael, CA 95609-1776