



MCYR NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The 2008 election season promises to be a season of change here in Morris County. The next few weeks will be an exciting time to be involved in Morris County Republican politics. We have a number of very important races. Starting with the Presidential race, we also have US Senate, US Congress, and Countywide races. In addition to that we have a number of critical and closely contested municipal races. This is truly an exciting year.

All of these new candidates as well as the remaining incumbents will need our help this fall. With all of this change in one year, there is a lot at stake. There will be many opportunities to help these candidates during the fall campaign season. We will be in contact with you on a weekly basis regarding these opportunities, and we look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail.

This year is also very interesting due to the impending Gubernatorial primary in early 2009. Usually, after Election Day in November, there will only be a short period of political downtime, a chance to catch your breath. After all, it is only a few short months until the Gubernatorial primary. While the Morris County Young Republicans do not take sides in any Republican primary, we encourage each and every one of our members to get involved with the primary campaign of the candidate of your choice. We should have a great opportunity to take back the Governorship next year and I encourage all of you to be a part of it.

Please join us at our next social event on Thursday, October 30th. We'll be back at the Famished Frog in Morristown. Appetizers will be provided. There will be a cash bar. As always feel free to bring a friend. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Donio
Chairman
Morris County Young Republicans

MCYR INTERVIEW

ASSEMBLYMAN JAY WEBBER



By Nicholas De Palma

MCYR: Tell us a little about yourself.

JW: I grew up in Clifton in Passaic County, and my parents Barbara and Jim Webber worked hard and made sacrifices to see that I had opportunities to develop whatever talents I might have had. I attended Clifton public schools until the 8th grade, and then went on to St. Joseph Regional High School in Montvale, The John Hopkins University in Baltimore — and after some time in politics, government, and private sector work, to Harvard Law School. My wife Johanna and I live with our four children in Morris Plains, where I'm a trustee at St. Virgil's parish and a member of the Republican County Committee.

MCYR: What initially attracted you to politics? What made you decide to be a Republican?

JW: My first significant recollection of politics is observing President Ronald Reagan. His deep belief in America, his strong and clear convictions, and his extraordinary leadership made me proud of my country. President Reagan also made me a Republican. My education and experience since President Reagan left office have confirmed my belief that the Republican Party, at its best, represents the intellectual and political heritage of our Founding Fathers. When the Republican Party remains

true to its core principles of respecting individual property rights, promoting constitutional government, and defending traditional values, it is the single most important and potent political movement in the world.

MCYR: You are a Young Republican. How does your time with the YRs contribute to your profession as an attorney and as a Legislator?

JW: The support of many friends in the Young Republicans greatly contributed to a successful campaign for the Assembly — so many volunteered their time and efforts, walking with our campaign door-to-door, driving around the District, calling voters, putting up signs, and supporting our campaign in countless other ways. It was a great experience of YRs working to put one of their own in the Legislature, and I am thankful for their continuing support. We remain in frequent contact — and as a Legislator, I especially appreciate the perspectives of Young Republicans on policy and where the State should be headed.

MCYR: This is your first time holding public office. But you ran against an incumbent in 2003. Some may interpret that as bold; what made you want to run?

JW: I ran in 2003 for many of the same reasons I ran in 2007, and serve today. I care deeply about my home state. I was born and raised here, and I returned here after completing my education in order to raise my family here. We have been heading in the wrong direction as a State for some time, and I believe that the Republican Party, if it adheres to its historic mission, holds the key to restoring hope to our State. That is why primary elections are so important, and why I decided to become involved in the electoral process.

MCYR: The GOP has gone through a rough time recently and we haven't won a state-wide race since 1997. What do Republicans need to do to grow the party in New Jersey?

JW: There are many things that will help us restore a Republican majority in New Jersey, but I will touch on just a few here. We can begin by restoring the integrity of the Republican brand, so that it stands for something other than nostalgia for 1985 and concessions to Democratic policies. We've seen the model — what Republicans did on the federal level in the years leading up to 1994. Get the Democrats on the record, demonstrate how out-of-touch they are with citizens of New Jersey, and put forward positive policy proposals and appeals to what is right about New Jerseyans — and then run disciplined campaigns on those grounds. And work is beginning right now on another facet of Party building — remedying legislative districting so that the Republican share of the vote statewide is represented in a proportionate share of legislative seats. Republicans are winning majorities across

the State, but Democratic gerrymandering results in distorted representation in the Legislature, especially in the Assembly. It will be a 3-year challenge, and I am pleased that I will be on the frontlines of the redistricting fight as we head into the census and the redistricting of 2011.

MCYR: Last year was a big turnover year for the Legislature as a large number of Members retired. Republicans in the Senate and Assembly are on average far younger and more conservative than in years past. As a part of that "new wave" of Legislators, what influence do you think this will have on policy?

JW: We have 13 new Republican Members of the Assembly, or about 40% of the Republican Caucus of 32 Members. You're right — that is a new wave of Legislators, and we started immediately in January to develop cohesion and communication among us all. Assembly Republican Leader Alex DeCroce has done a great job of integrating the new Members into the Caucus, while also encouraging the new Members to come together as a group and develop an identity as the Class of 2008. I think the Class of '08 will make our Caucus more dynamic and help it stick to our core Republican principles.

MCYR: If Republicans hope to re-take control of Trenton, we need to get our message to voters. However, getting "fair" reporting to the masses is difficult when dealing with a biased media. What can we do to get our message to residents and know an alternative exists?

JW: Don't avoid the mainstream media — letters to the editor, op-eds, and contributions to stories still are important avenues for communicating to citizens. Most reporters and editors I know are fair most of the time, and readers are smart in any event — they tend to see straight through any bias injected into reporting. But also take advantage of the many additional means for low-cost communicating that technology allows. Blogs have proliferated, and they can be good vehicles for communicating messages. Email lists should be developed and used actively. Websites increasingly can be created and maintained at relatively low cost.

MCYR: The State is in bad fiscal shape. Taxes and cost of living are high, driving young people out of NJ to more affordable states. What does NJ need to do to keep the next generation at home?

We have to do everything possible to make New Jersey affordable again for all citizens — restore restrained and responsible spending policies, provide tax relief to overburdened taxpayers, and establish pro-growth policies through tax cuts that protect taxpayer wallets. We have the bipartisan model already — both Republican President Reagan and Democratic President Kennedy cut taxes,

which produced record growth in the economy. New Jersey's Democrats have already tried high and increasing taxes and out-of-control spending — and have failed miserably. Let's try reducing taxes, spending responsibly, and re-ordering our priorities — so that everyone can afford to live in the State we love.

MCYR: One of those things that keeps skyrocketing in NJ is health-care. You are very close to this issue. Tell us about the "NJ Health-Care Choice Act".

JW: My proposed legislation would immediately lower the cost of health insurance in New Jersey, slash the number of uninsured, and require no taxpayer subsidy. The NJHCA would empower individuals, families, and small employers to cross state lines and secure healthcare coverage that best suits their needs and budgets. The bill would open New Jersey's health insurance market to competition, and is a product of many hours of vetting with various experts in the healthcare field, including legislators in other states and experts focused on healthcare choice legislation specifically. As the Democrats begin their push for costly, bureaucracy-laden, taxpayer-funded universal healthcare initiatives on New Jersey, it is my hope that this common-sense, market-oriented proposal will stand as a powerful counterweight in the debate ahead.

MCYR: Corruption is rampant in NJ and we have a bad reputation. This not only affects how we view our state, but hurts us in attracting new residents and businesses. Chris Christie has a perfect record in prosecuting offenders, but his tenure as US Attorney for NJ is coming to a close. What does the Legislature — and the Republican Party — need to do to stop corruption in New Jersey?

JW: The hard corruption of political bribery and abuse of power plague New Jersey citizens. But a "soft corruption" — activity that is technically legal, but nevertheless unethical and wrong, like double dipping and pension abuse — also corrodes the confidence New Jerseyans have in their government. Our elected officials should lead by example in cleaning up both the hard and soft cultures of corruption and restore the people's confidence in our government. That's why I voluntarily declined a pension and refuse taxpayer funding of health benefits.

MCYR: What do you hope to accomplish during your time in the Legislature? What reforms would you like to see implemented?

JW: I look forward to working with like-minded leaders and citizens to turn around the State — make New Jersey once again a place where citizens want to live, not a place they need to leave. I am eager to restore affordability, promote pro-growth tax policies, protect pro-family

policies, and convince citizens that our public servants can be and should be just that — public servants.

MCYR: What advice can you offer to YRs who wish to one day hold office?

JW: Before you run for office, know who you are, what you believe, and what you want to accomplish. Holding office is not an end in itself, it's just a means to effecting good laws that will improve people's lives. But if you have that foundation set, don't think that you are obliged to sit on the sidelines until someone taps you on the shoulder and tells you it's "your time." That "one day" can be now. Morris County Young Republicans now hold State Assembly, municipal, board of education, and county committee offices. Get and stay involved, step forward and volunteer when a job needs to be done, support other Republicans in their own efforts to improve the lives of their fellow citizens, and offer your values and service to the voters, who are calling out for leadership. You'll find that citizens are receptive to your message and willing to give you a chance to lead — whatever age you happen to be.

Assemblyman Jay Webber is serving his first term in the General Assembly, representing the 26th Legislative District, which includes portions of Morris and Passaic Counties.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The Morris County Young Republicans have entered the world of [MySpace](#) and [FaceBook](#). Please check out our pages, and add us as a friend!!

<http://www.myspace.com/morrisnjyr>

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2229289561>

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!!!

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A YR at the RNC Convention

By Will Kolb

“Tonight I have a privilege given few Americans; the privilege of accepting our party’s nomination for President of the United States!”

- John McCain, September 4, 2008

I am not your normal Young Republican and am just finishing my first year with the MCYR. When I joined a year ago, much of what I knew about politics I had learned from my favorite TV show, “The West Wing” (easy folks – as the producers said, “We want Republicans to hate our politics, but still love our show.”). And it was through the YRs that the opportunity came to attend the 2008 Republican National Convention.

I have never followed a convention before. The closest I have come to watching a convention was seeing the highlight reel of Arnold Schwarzenegger’s famous advice to the Democrats in 2004 – “Stop Being Girly Men!” Naturally, the best way to learn about a convention is to attend in person. So it was with this never-ending quest to learn more about politics that I signed up for the 2008 Republican National Convention.

Officially, the purpose of a convention is for a political party to secure its nominees for President and Vice-President of the United States in the general election. Unofficially, it is each party’s opportunity to bolster excitement around their base and to pull other undecided voters to join them.

In preparation for my new adventure in politics, I watched the Democratic National Convention intensely and with a new perspective. The Democrats seemed to pull off a stunning array of party unity, however feigned, with mounting excitement each night which ended in a crescendo in the final star studded stadium event. Now with their party over, I could not wait for our convention. It was our turn to excite America.

To me, the convention actually began 3 days early on Friday, August 29th, 2008. I woke up and noticed an e-mail on my Blackberry from NYTimes.com: “McCain Chooses Palin as Running Mate.” In my mind, I could already feel the excitement starting to build. “He picked Palin to be his running mate?” I thought to myself. “That’s awesome!” From what I knew of her, she is articulate, she has her constituents’ interests at heart, and she will definitely add energy to the election, as well as raise the stakes with the Democrats. Little did I know how true this would all be!

By Sunday, I could not wait. With only 24 hours to go, I was looking forward to the speeches, the crowds and, of course, the parties! And then came the news about Hurricane Gustav. Steve Moersdorf, the New Jersey YR Chairman and I attended the convention together, so we watched the news unfold.

As news of the impending disaster continued, CNN and Fox News were reporting all types of changes. First, we learned that all Governors from the Gulf Coast region had cancelled their speeches to be proactive against this disaster in their home states. We also learned that Arnold Schwarzenegger, while not impacted by the hurricane, had also cancelled his appearance to deal with a budgetary crisis in California. While we knew this was definitely the right thing to do, I was disappointed I would not get to experience a normal convention.

Being in the convention hall the first evening was great, even if the festive mood seen in Denver was lacking. First Lady Laura Bush was the highlight of the first day. On the second day, we heard from Senator Joe Lieberman and former Senator Fred Thompson. I will never forget hearing Thompson’s deep, booming voice echo around the arena as he detailed McCain’s distinguished military service record, as well as his excruciating, painful and agonizing years in captivity.

The second day of the Republican convention was still marked with uncertainty and somberness, not the growing excitement and anticipation seen at the Democratic Convention. However, away from the Convention, we were treated to unique opportunities only available to members of the New Jersey state delegation. We were honored to hear from former Governor Kean (a man for whom I have extreme gratitude and admiration) and former Governor Whitman. Personally, I had the added benefit of hearing both my Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and my State Senator and Senate Leader Tom Kean Jr. speak, both excellent leaders for whom I have great respect.

In addition to hearing from our honored delegates, we also had our own Boat Cruise (my personal thanks to the Crowleys!) where we mingled personally with many of New Jersey’s Republican elected officials, and a personal tour of the Metrodome, where the Vikings and Twins play.

Over time, my disappointment over the lack of energy of the convention turned to concern. What if we could not match the excitement the Democrats had coming out of their convention? If we did not excite our base, would we have any remaining chance to win in November? On Wednesday, when we learned that Hurricane Gustav

would not cause major damage in the gulf, my concerns quickly dissipated.

For me, the 3rd day of the Convention was the most exciting and most anticipated. While McCain's speech was the highlight of the Convention, the speeches given this day were most enjoyable. The speakers included Michael Steele (where "Drill Baby Drill" originated), Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee, who gave a stinging and truly enjoyable speech. As Huckabee correctly pointed out, "Gov. Palin won more votes for Mayor of Wasilla, than Joe Biden did running for President of the United States."

With each speech, I started to feel the convention beginning to take shape and the excitement that had been lacking started to take hold. The speech Rudy Giuliani gave was one that only Rudy can give. He assailed the Democrats and really warmed up the crowd bringing us to Gov. Palin's speech.

This was the speech I had been waiting for since Friday. In my opinion, this speech meant the election. Many Republicans I had spoken with over several months prior were unhappy with McCain as the nominee. This meant they probably would not vote. So in my mind, to get the conservative voters to the polls, they needed to connect with Gov. Palin. If Sarah Palin did not nail this speech the election would be over.

Well, my concern and trepidation that had been building over the last few months vanished 55 minutes later. Once she completed her speech, I am sure many Republicans around the Nation rejoiced at our choice for VP, while our fellow Democrats succumbed to the exact opposite feelings of dread and despair. I'm positive she also reached many of those precious undecided voters.

As we left the convention center that night, what had been a "ho-hum" mood in the convention hall for the first 48 hours had turned into an upbeat, energetic and focused atmosphere. As John McCain delivered his speech the next night, the roaring crowd grew more upbeat and more energized with each successive statement that in the end, there was so much joyous noise that we simply could not hear the end of his speech over the loudspeakers (which, only 72 hours earlier, I did not think was possible). We had our nominees, and there were only two words in my mind for the Democrats: "Game On!"

As the balloons and confetti fell that night, I sat in my chair and asked myself how I could help. My point is this – while the Convention was a lot of fun and generated much excitement, it is only a small part of the entire political process. We have just over 1 more month until the November election. If, as you watched the

Convention speeches on TV and felt compelled to get involved, do so! If, as you watch the debates you feel passionately about a certain topic, fight for it and get involved! Volunteer for a candidate (um, a Republican, please), because any help is always greatly appreciated!

In my short time with the YRs, I have learned that politics is never-ending. Victories do not come easily. However, if we all put forth a little effort and hard work, as well as receive just a bit of luck, the evening of November 4th will be very, very sweet.

MCYR NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nicholas De Palma

Publisher: Will Kolb

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 29th – November 4th

McCain HQ Volunteer Hours

When: Up to & including Election Day

October 29 – 31: 9am – 9pm

November 1: 10am – 8pm

November 3 & 4: 9am – 9pm

Where: McCain/Palin Headquarters

40 New Brunswick Avenue

Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Contact: Stephanie Fila at sfila@mccain08hq.com

or 732-479-4780 for more information.

November 2nd

MCRC Campaign Rally

Time: 2-4PM

Where: In front of MCRC, 26 Schuyler Place, Morristown.

November 2nd

MCRC Sign Blitz & Pre-Blitz Pizza Party

Time: 5PM Pizza Party & 6PM Sign Blitz

Where: Meet at MCRC, 26 Schuyler Place, Morristown.

Special Note: You **MUST RSVP** with Greg at 973-897-4534 or email GOPVolunteers@att.net with your attendance!!

November 8th

NJYRF Quarterly Meeting

Time and Place: TBA

November 14th – November 16th

2008 YRNF Quarterly Meeting

Where: Nashville, Tennessee

See details at: <http://yrnfashville08.eventbrite.com/>

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November 19th

MCYR November Social

Time: 7:30 PM

Where: The Famished Frog

Guest speaker: TBA

Appetizers are provided. Cash bar. Door prizes!!

December 2008 (Date TBD)

MCYR Holiday Party

Time & Location: TBA

(Elections to be held for 2009 MCYR Officers at event)

CONTACT MCYR!

eMail: MorrisYR@gmail.com

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OPINION: JASON FORMAN

The Presidential Race:

A Conservative Perspective & Frustration

As I sit here and write this column on October 5th, I can say with certainty what the outcome will be on November 5th without having to morning quarterbacking the results.

I will state up front that I am an ardent conservative who has taken issue with the McCain campaign. In the interest of full disclosure, I worked on the presidential campaign of Congressman Tom Tancredo during the primary – so at least my conscience is clear.

Though many of us supported different candidates during the primary, for many of us John McCain is too liberal and inconsistent to win the Presidency.

I'm fearful of how accurate that last statement is and am afraid to be proven correct.

Senator McCain is an honorable man who served this nation well. He survived torture, anguish and worse during his time in Vietnam. He is truly the more respectable man in this race and deserves all the praises heaped upon him for his service to America.

But regardless of how I feel about him personally, after the nomination of Barack Obama, this race should have been a slam dunk for Republicans. Senator Obama is an incredibly flawed individual. One could say that many of his statements are not only un-American or unpatriotic, but border on Marxist, racist, and anti-Semitic as well. His

ascension to national politics is proof that image and a well oiled-political machine have a way of vaulting undeserved individuals into positions of prominence. Obama is where he is because of public perception and a seemingly compelling personal story – but there is little substance behind the façade.

Despite my feelings on McCain politically, he should be winning by a landslide if only he would run an effective campaign and articulate the issues. The ammunition against Obama is endless. Frustratingly, McCain has tried project himself as a high minded politician. He has refused to go on the attack and bring up any of Obama's weaknesses effectively. This 'non-confrontational, elder statesman' strategy has not worked well for President Bush and it is not working for McCain.

We've all read about skeletons in Obama closet, which the media has failed to adequately investigate. We know he was a community organizer and worked for ACORN – a group connected with voter fraud. It is the same group that was granted ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS in pork under the revised bailout bill. And yet, other than talk radio, this has been mentioned nowhere and McCain has failed to mention make much of it.

It has been mentioned that Obama is friends with terrorists, specifically the weather-undergrounds' Bill Ayers, who remains unrepentant. Obama essentially started his political career with a fundraiser hosted by Ayers. We all know this to be true – yet that isn't what concerns me.

What I find more disturbing is that Obama has been publically endorsed in Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, not to mention terrorists groups Hezbollah and Hamas. This has been reported by Newsmax, WorldNet Daily, Front Page Magazine, the Washington Times and Fox. But why isn't it widely acknowledged?

Or what of the fact that Obama has received foreign donations, which is against U.S. election law? A report by Newsmax's Kenneth Timmerman demonstrates that Obama raised almost \$150,000,000 from foreign sources. The Federal Elections Commission is too understaffed and under funded to investigate properly, and yet the McCain campaign refuses to bring much of this up.

What about interrogation tactics the Obama campaign has employed in Missouri? The campaign planned to use Sheriff's deputies and prosecutors to file criminal charges against anyone they felt were lying about Senator Obama. Is that not abusing power?

Or what of Obama's associations with a racist church, which has been ignored by the McCain campaign. Was

McCain afraid of being called a racist himself for bringing it up? The fact is that knowledge of his associations worked. He was running away with the nomination until this came out and it kept Hillary Clinton in the race for awhile longer.

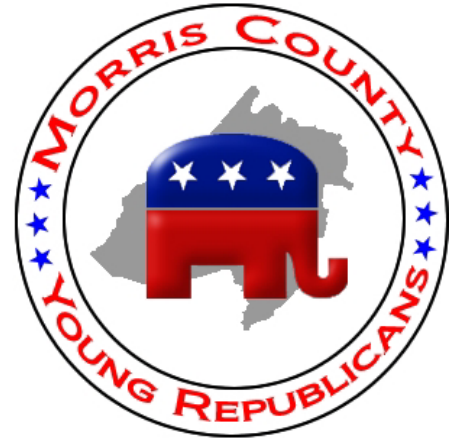
But it has not only been missed opportunities on McCain's part as he has made costly mistakes on his own. Voting for a bailout that the greater majority of the public did NOT want was a costly error. McCain needed to separate himself from Senator Obama and President Bush. Voting against this socialist bailout, and maybe showing some leadership in killing the bill, would have accomplished much with a single vote.

Ironically, one of John McCain's own campaign finance reform law is hurting him. Thanks to his own ideals, he will receive absolutely zero help from any outside sources because it would be illegal, while the press is free to advertise for Senator Obama as much as they like. This is exactly why conservatives told him would happen.

When the Democrats nominated Barak Obama over Hillary Clinton, they opened an opportunity for Republicans to retain the White House. But McCain would squander this opportunity. As I type this column, John McCain is down in EVERY SINGLE POLL, even in key states like Ohio, Colorado, Florida, and North Carolina.

I am sure many of you are reading this now and saying to yourself what a downer I am being, how I need to keep the faith, or that I should not give up. But as a conservative Republican, I can't help but see the facts for what they are. And since the press refuses to cover anything in Obama's past or present, it is up to the McCain Campaign to make sure people know.

To be fair, there is still time. All of the information to use against Obama is there; it just needs to be used. The McCain campaign has a huge challenge ahead. All Obama has to do is say he is not Republican while John McCain must work twice as hard get people to actually vote for him. John McCain held out as a POW for longer then most men could ever dream of and it illustrates he does have it in him to defeat an enemy - political or otherwise. He must now reach down and reconnect with the spirit that helped him survive the Hanoi Hilton to win this election.



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