



The Tesson Times

A Publication of the
Tesson Ferry Township Republican Club
Volume 22 #02 February 2017

February 2017 Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 9th, 2017
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
Forum: Mehlville Fire & School Board Candidates



Our regular meeting will be on Thursday, January 12th at 7:00 pm at Abiding Savior Lutheran church, 4355 Butler Hill Road. (North of the Schnucks shopping center at Highway 55 and Butler Hill Road.) Park in the back of the church. Candidates for the Mehlville Fire Board and the Mehlville School Board have been invited to speak to our club.



January Highlights

January's meeting started with a prayer being said over the elected officials present. They included Rep. Cloria Brown, Rep. David Gregory, Councilman Ernie Trakas, Ed Ryan-Director of the Mehlville Fire Protection District, Committeeman John Judd and Committeewoman Christy Hessel.

John Judd updated the group with a variety of items. Governor Eric Greitens appointed Todd Graves as the new Missouri GOP chairman. Aaron Hilmer, Director and Chairman of the Mehlville Fire Protection District (MFPD) is up for re-election this April. The MFPD has been very competently managed under Aaron Hilmer, Ed Ryan and Dr. Bonnie Stegman. We need to hold on to the quality this team offers by supporting Aaron's re-election bid. If you would like to help with this effort by volunteering or displaying a yard sign, please contact Ed Ryan at 314-729-7137 or email him at edmaryann@sbcglobal.net. In the Lindbergh School Board race, Martha Duchild is running in the special election for the one-year vacancy for Kate Holloway's seat. Kate passed away last May. Gravois Committeewoman Jennifer Bird is running for a three-year term on this board. Both candidates offer a strong conservative voice on the board.

Rep. Cloria Brown serves on four committees: the Budget Committee; the Professional Registration and Licensing Committee; the Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee and the Subcommittee on Appropriations – Public Safety, Corrections, Transportation and Revenue where she is the vice-chairman. The house passed the ethics bill which will proceed to the senate. Two more rules went through the rules committee: right-to-work and a bill dealing with TNCs (Transportation Network Companies) like Uber. Cloria has filed four more bills: one dealing with human trafficking, a foster care bill, a no-texting-while-driving bill and a hands-free-while driving bill.

Rep. David Gregory also serves on four committees: the Budget Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Special Committee on Small Business and the Subcommittee on Appropriations – Public Safety, Corrections, Transportation and Revenue. Since this is David's first term, he is quickly learning his new job and will be filing some bills in March. David has named John Judd District Director.

Ed Ryan Director of the Mehlville Fire Protection District, addressed the group. He pointed out that under the *Better Together* report recommendations all fire protection districts in both St. Louis City and St. Louis County would be consolidated into one unified district. They also recommended 21 new fire stations and over 1,000 new employees. The taxpayers of MFPD have already paid for new stations in their district, but under this consolidated regional design, our taxes will be doubled in order to pay for this.

Councilman Ernie Trakas updated us on some of the business of the county council. There is a proposal to extend the Great Greenways trail to Cliff Cave Park. He has delayed this until he receives further study and feedback from residents affected by this. He reiterated his opposition to the City/County merger and the extension of MetroLink to South County. Ernie said that Lemay is the front line for District 6 and that he will meet with Lemay community leaders for their input.

Carol Veillette, Field Director of the *Americans for Prosperity*-Missouri briefly introduced her organization to our group. Two of *Americans for Prosperity* achievements include passing Right-to-Work in Michigan and Wisconsin and Stopping Obamacare's Medicaid expansion in Tennessee, Florida, Virginia and more. To find out more information about this group, visit their website at AmericansForProsperity.com.

Visit us at the following sites:

tessonferrygop on Twitter

<http://www.tfrepublicanclub.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/tessonferrygop>

Yes, it's time to renew your membership for 2017. A single membership is still only \$20/year and a family membership remains \$30/year. What better value can you find for the money? A membership form is attached.



Ernie Trakas Sworn Into Office

January 1st, 2017 started with Ernie Trakas being sworn in as St. Louis County Councilman for District 6. The noon ceremony in the county council chamber also witnessed the swearing in of Councilman Sam Page and Councilwoman Rochelle Walton Gray. Ernie addressed the group by thanking the voters of District 6. While other county council members were in attendance, Steve Stenger was noticeably absent. A reception immediately followed the ceremony. We wish Ernie success in his new position as councilman from District 6.

Christy Hessel – Newsletter Editor

New GOP Leadership in 2017



Your 68-member GOP State Committee met on January 7th with the task of electing officers. Todd Graves, from western Missouri is the new Chairman and was backed by Governor Greitens. Kay Hoflander is Vice-Chairman. Nick Myers, from the Southwest corner of the state was elected Secretary. Pat Thomas, from Mexico, Missouri was elected Treasurer. The website for our state party is www.mogop.org.

John Judd-Committeeman



New TV Show to Watch!

Here's a great TV show for political junkies. This Week In Missouri Politics airs every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. on Channel 30. Host Scott Faughn will usually lead off with a state representative or state senator explaining what he or she hopes to accomplish in this year's session. The following segment, "The Opinion Maker Panel", matches two liberals against two conservatives. The four discuss issues in the Missouri General Assembly this year. I hope you find this show informational and enjoyable . See also #twmp. Thank you.

John Judd-Committeeman

Quote of the Month

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." John Quincy Adams

Quoted at the Missouri State Representatives swearing in ceremony.

Missouri Legislators Start New Term



Our Missouri state representatives and senators took their oath of office on January 4th. The floor of the house was packed with family and friends of the representatives as they watched the proceedings. Outgoing Secretary of State Jason Kander shamelessly exploited his official role when he opened the event with a bitterly partisan lecture on how voter ID was a poll tax designed to disenfranchise citizens. Kander ended his remarks by threatening to take photo ID legislation to court. It was totally inappropriate for the circumstances not to mention that it was grossly lacking in facts. So happy he didn't win the U.S. Senate race last November.

Rep. Todd Richardson was sworn in as Speaker of the House. This impressive leader outlined some of the problems Missouri faces: no population growth, stagnant wages and increased poverty. The challenges we face in 2017 are global competition and economic conditions that change at an accelerated rate. States that embrace change can deal with these challenges more effectively than their counterparts. Richardson then presented several priorities for this next session.

- Make Missouri a good place to do business. Right to Work tops this list.
- Tort reform. Missouri courts are being used for prosecuting companies in frivolous lawsuits.
- Education reform which includes competitive charter schools, education savings accounts and online classes.
- Promote a culture of life in Missouri.
- Missouri government will live within its means and hold the line on taxes.
- Ethics reform including a ban on lobbyist gifts.

Rep. Elijah Haahr from Greene County was sworn in as Speaker Pro Tem. His priorities for the next five months will focus upon (1) removing government barriers to private business; (2) unleashing technical advances and (3) encouraging free market competition.

I saw a number of leaders from our Tesson Ferry Township. They included Rep. **Cloria Brown**, Rep. **David Gregory**, Rep. **Marsha Haefner**, Rep. **John McCaherty** and Sen. **Andrew Koenig**. In addition I visited **Josh Foster** (Chief of Staff for Sen. Ed Emery), **Jamey Murphy** (Chief of Staff for Sen. Paul Wieland) and **Jim Lembke** (Chief of Staff for Sen. Rob Schaaf). TFTRC members can take great pride in sending these fine people to Jefferson City.

Christy Hessel
Tesson Ferry Township Committeewoman

Central Committee Report



Rick Stream, the newly-appointed Republican Director of Elections of St. Louis County addressed the January meeting of the St. Louis County Central Committee. He explained how every item of business in this board is conducted jointly with a Republican and a Democrat overseeing the process. All voting machines are kept in-house and are maintained in-house with workers from both parties involved. This adds a level of security and integrity to our election process. The work of the election board is very detailed-oriented. Last April's election fiasco was caused by human error; the number of paper ballots needed by each precinct was not precisely verified and numbers were transposed. Since St. Louis County has 93 municipalities, there are 305 ballot options in April elections with school board races. This makes the April election the most complicated of all elections. There is a crying need for Republican judges and poll workers. If we don't get enough Republicans to fill these key positions, Democrats get assigned to serve in their place. We need 4,000 judges and poll workers. The election board will not move from its Maplewood location to the Northwest Plaza location until the April elections are completed. One item of note: in recounts, the numbers recorded by *paper* ballots are changed more frequently than by electronic ballot because the *intention of the voter* has to be determined in how they marked their paper ballot. Rick Stream can be reached at RSTREAM@stlouisco.com. The election board phone number is (314) 615-1800.

Tim Dreeste, addressed the group regarding the city/county merger. The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis is pushing hard to make the City of St. Louis a municipality of St. Louis County. The push is gaining momentum. The cost of maintaining courts, fire and police departments will be used to justify the need for such a merger. If we are not active, we will lose this battle. We need to make our friends and neighbors aware of the negative changes that will directly affect them in the form of higher taxes, higher insurance rates and a Democrat dominated government.

Christy Hessel, Tesson Ferry Committeewoman



Lincoln/Reagan Day Banquet

The annual Lincoln/Reagan Day Dinner will be held Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Orlando Gardens, 4300 Hoffmeister Avenue in South County. The theme for this year's dinner is "Then and Now: A Celebration of Victory." Entertainment will be provided by "The Sons of Britches" a group from Branson. Doors open at 6:00 pm. The dinner includes a buffet and open bar. Please see the attached PDF file for banquet and reservation details.



John Judd – 2017 ROY

Congratulations to John Judd our 2017 “ROY”, the Republican of the Year! Involved in GOP politics since 1980, he has volunteered for numerous candidates in every single election cycle. His work supported school board, municipal, fire board and community college district candidates. In 2004, he served on our state platform committee.

John is a former Lemay committeeman and has been our Tesson Ferry committeeman since 2008. He was Central Committee Recruitment Chairman from 2012-2014. John was Chairman of the TFTRC Executive Board for years and has served as Secretary of the Executive Board as well as interim Treasurer for TFTRC. He was TFTRC President in 2007 and 2008.

Please join with us in celebrating our 2017 ROY at our annual spring fundraiser on April 23, 2017. Genesis Banquet Center, 2651 Telegraph Road, will host this event. More details of the ROY banquet will be forthcoming.

Missouri Inauguration 2017



Matt Chellis and I attended the January 9th inauguration in Jefferson City in which we saw the following Republicans take their oaths of office: Governor Eric Greitens, Lieutenant Governor Mike Parson, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, Attorney General Josh Hawley and Treasurer Eric Schmitt. Governor Greitens gave a great speech. We then visited a number of state representatives including Rep. David Gregory and Rep. Cloria Brown. We also visited a number of state senators including Sen. Koenig, Sen. Eigel, Sen. Onder and Sen. Schaaf. Finally, we met with our new St. Louis County Elections Director Rick Stream. All in all it was a great day to be a Missourian!

Committeeman, John Judd



Coming Events

- **Thursday, February 9th, 7:00 pm**, TFTRC meeting, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.
- **Friday-Sunday, February 24-26th**, Missouri Lincoln Days, Springfield, MO, see <https://lincolndays.missouri.gop> for information.
- **Monday, February 27th, 7:00 pm**, TFTRC board meeting.
- **Saturday, March 25th**, Lincoln-Reagan Day banquet, Orlando Gardens South. See attached flyer.
- **Tuesday, April 4th**, Election Day.
- **Sunday, April 23rd**, ROY banquet, Genesis Banquet Center.



Good Book to Read

September 11th, 2001 marked the official War on Terror in the George W. Bush administration. James E. Mitchell, PhD was one of the key players in obtaining strategic information from captured terrorists. Dr. Mitchell's book *Enhanced Interrogation* explains how he was contacted by the CIA to design an interrogation program that would effectively obtain vital information needed to prevent impending terrorist attacks. He describes the extreme lengths that the Justice Department took in reviewing proposed enhanced interrogation techniques thus ensuring that prisoners were treated humanely and their physical and mental safety was protected. He chronicles how the program was started, became controversial and was subsequently shut down. After serving his government for several years he became the subject of several politically-motivated congressional investigations and Justice Department prosecutions under the Obama administration. Dr. Mitchell served twenty-two years in the U.S. Air Force as a clinical psychologist before he retired as a Lt. Colonel. He served from August 2002 to January 2009 in the CIA's enhanced interrogation program and was one of their interrogators during this time. You'll find this book interesting on several levels. Pick it up at the St. Louis County Library.

Christy Hessel, Newsletter Editor

2017 TFTRC Board Members				
Pres. Zina Hackworth	882-5373	Sgt-at-Arms	Lou Holtmann	487-2820
VP Matt Chellis	892-7284	Membership	Earlene Judd	416-4605
Secy Larry Eaves	200-6402	Newsletter	Christy Hessel	845-6879
Treas Joe Garavaglia	416-4720	Social Media	Jim Murphy	603-9253
Committeeman John Judd	416-4605	earlenejudd2@sbcglobal.net		
Committeewoman Christy Hessel	845-6879	- christy_hessel@att.net		

Off to a Good Start

Hats off to President Donald Trump: he's done an excellent job in selecting the best qualified men and women to serve in his administration. Now he's delivering on campaign promises regarding jobs, halting the funding of abortion and re-negotiating bad treaties that have damaged American economic interests. There's a lot of work to be done, but he's determined and energetic. Let's keep him and the people in his administration in our prayers.

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