



The Tesson Times

A Publication of the
Tesson Ferry Township Republican Club
Volume 20 #09 September 2015

September Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 10th, 2015
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
School Cafeteria
Speaker Jay Ashcroft, candidate for
Missouri Secretary of State



Our September 10th meeting will be held in the school cafeteria at **Abiding Savior Lutheran Church at 4355 Butler Hill Road**. This is north of the Schnucks shopping center at Highway 55 and Butler Hill Road. The cafeteria is located on the lower level of the church and is accessible by elevator. Park in the back of the church to enter. Our speaker will be Jay Ashcroft, candidate for Missouri Secretary of State. Be sure to attend and become informed on the latest issues.



August Meeting Highlights

The speaker for this evening was David Gregory, candidate for the Missouri State Representative seat – 96th District. David started by pointing out the appalling stories heard on the news and the widespread attitude that corruption is a way of life in politics. People desire leaders who will protect their interests and listen to their concerns. He would like to address the continually rising taxes which are particularly hurting the elderly and small business owners. He would like to protect the future of our party by using his time, energy and passion to carry our legacy into the future.

Additional comments from the question and answer period brought out the following.

David is a second cousin to Mike Leara, the current Missouri State Rep. - District 96. David supports traditional marriage and second amendment rights. He opposes abortion in all circumstances and is strongly pro-life. With regard to Tax Incentive Financing (TIFs), he feels that most TIFs do not work. He is okay with a TIF if it can

bring business into the state, but not by pitting one municipality against another. He is in favor of right-to-work since Gov. Scott Walker's support of it in Wisconsin has been highly successful. We need to educate union people as to what right-to-work accomplishes and how it can benefit them. He is against raising the minimum wage and strongly opposes Obamacare. He feels that we should look for innovative tax policies in our state to reap the greatest economic gains. The new port policy is an example of this approach. If elected, he would like to sit on the Public Safety Committee and the Economic Development Committee. David's phone number is (314) 619-4250. His website is: www.gregoryformissouri.com.

Straw Poll: This was held just for fun. Everyone attending the meeting was allowed one candidate to vote for. The GOP presidential candidates listed on the GOP website were listed in alphabetical order. Here's the results of the TFTRC poll:

Carson	2	Cruz	8	Fiorina	2	Kasich	1
Rubio	3	Trump	2	Walker	3		

Committee People: Zina Hackworth reported that the St. Louis Republican Central Committee voted to donate \$1,000 to the Missouri Republican party to be given to candidates after the primary, but they did not specify whether these were to be state or local candidates. They supported right-to-work in the state and they were in favor of selling acreage from Sylvan Springs Park to Jefferson Barracks Cemetery.

John Judd reported that on August 18th, committee people of the 89th District of the Missouri House will find a replacement candidate for the vacancy created by John Diehl's resignation. Vince Smugala's son-in-law, Dean Plocher is one of the candidates for this slot. If he is selected, he is having a fund-raising reception on Thursday, August 27th at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Chesterfield. John also asked for people to contact Steve Stenger and Councilman O'Leary to voice their support for selling some Sylvan Springs land to Jefferson Barracks.

The state-wide Lincoln Days will be held in St. Louis on February 26-28th at the Sheraton Westport Hotel. See www.mogop.org for details.



Coming Events

- **Thursday, September 10th, 7:00 pm.** TFTRC meeting at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. Speaker: Jay Ashcroft, candidate for Missouri Sec'y. of State.
- **Friday, September 25th.** TFTRC Texas Hold-em Poker Tournament at Sherwood Country Club. Cash bar, snacks provided. See flyer for details.
- **Thursday, October 8th, 7:00 pm.** TFTRC meeting at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. Debate over Mehlville School District tax increase.

South County GOP Townships' Picnic

The South County GOP township clubs set another attendance record with 250 guests at their August 30th picnic at Cliff Cave Park. Elected officials from all levels of government included US Senator Roy Blunt and US Rep. Ann Wagner and gubernatorial candidates Peter Kinder, Catherine Hanaway, John Brunner and Randy Asbury. State Sen. Will Kraus and Attorney Bev Randles came from Kansas City to meet and greet voters in their respective bids for Secretary of State and Lt. Governor. Other state-wide candidates included Jay Ashcroft (Secy of State) and Curt Schaefer (Atty. General). Numerous state representatives and candidates for state offices also addressed the crowd. We extend a special "thank you" to David Gregory for paying for the delicious food and refreshments for this gathering.

Elect Andrew Koenig to the Senate!



Our very own Senator Eric Schmitt is term-limited out next year. In the race to succeed him I urge you to back constitutional conservative Andrew Koenig. In this majority-GOP district the Senator will be chosen on August 2, 2016. Andrew has served as state representative since 2009. Last year he was the house bill handler for our first income tax cut in 93 years and he will lead the charge to stop Common Core. He is fiscally responsible and passed the law that created drug testing for certain welfare recipients. He passed a bill outlawing telemed abortions currently occurring in other states.

He is a good family man. He and Brooke have three boys. Please visit his website at www.electandrewkoenig.com. He can be reached at andrewpkoenig@yahoo.com. I strongly urge you to commit to Andrew and join his team. One constitutional conservative senator can make a big difference. Thanks for your consideration.

John Judd-Committeeman

The Tesson Times will be mailed by US Postal Service only to TFTRC members who requested it and whose dues are paid. After you read this newsletter, please pass it on to a neighbor or friend. The opinions printed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Tesson Ferry Township Republican Club, but those of individual writers. Paid for the Tesson Ferry Township Republican Club, David Gregory, Treasurer and not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee



Texas Hold'em Tournament on Friday September 25th

The TFTRC is having a Texas Hold'em Tournament on Friday, September 25th at Sherwood Country Club, 8100 Find Road, St. Louis, MO 63129. Registration is from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The tournament begins at 7:15 sharp. Spectators are welcome, but poker skills are not required, so feel free to join a beginner's table to learn how to play.

- \$20 Add-Ons or Re-Buys available during first hour
- \$25 buy-in includes \$1000 worth of chips
- 20 minute Blind Increments
- Snacks provided – Cash Bar
- \$200 Bonus chips for reservations before September 15th
- Blinds starting \$25/\$50
- Blinds Double every round

For additional information call or email Jim Murphy: jim.murphy@TFRepublicanClub.com (314)603-9253. To reserve your spot, send your check made out to TFTRC to:

David Gregory, Treasurer
5539 Pine Wood Forest
St. Louis, MO 63128

Good Book to Read



David McCullough consistently writes history that reads like a novel and his latest book, *The Wright Brothers* is no exception. Air travel is so commonplace that it's hard to imagine a world without flight as it was before the Wright brothers made their revolutionary breakthrough in 1903. Wilbur was four years older than Orville and could be considered a genius. Orville shone in his mechanical ability. They were totally devoted to each other and to their quest to build the first heavier-than-air powered machine that could carry a pilot. But there were a number of other people who played key roles in enabling the brothers to achieve their goal, most notably their sister Katharine, who ran their bicycle shop and maintained a steady income for the family while Orville and Wilbur conducted their flight tests at Kitty Hawk. The Wright brothers accepted no outside funding for their research and development while running their own business to meet their living expenses. This was in sharp contrast with Samuel Langley of the Smithsonian Institute who accepted large government grants and met with total failure. It's a lesson we could still learn from today. You'll have a much greater appreciation for the vision, persistence and genius of these two remarkable men and their accomplished sister. You can find this book at the St. Louis County Library.

Christy Hessel – Newsletter Editor



Remembering Donna Matuszak & Anita Yeckel

Donna Matuszak, R.I.P.

There is a date on which we are born and a date on which we die. For most of us neither date is significant. How we will be remembered or, even if we shall be remembered, depends on how we have lived our life. It is that "dash" on our tombstone between the date of our birth and the date of our death. Linda Ellis, in her memorable poem, *The Dash*, says it most eloquently, "... what matters most of all was the dash between those years... . What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash."

Donna and her late husband, Joe, entered politics as volunteers on the campaign of a candidate. At the end of the campaign they realized that their work was not finished. If they were going to continue to assist Republican candidates, they had to become more involved. And they did, joining the old Concord Township Republican Club. Both gave of their time and their talent to strengthen the club and to ensure that good Republican candidates were elected.

In 1992, Donna was elected Committeewoman in the old Concord Township. That year was a bad year for Republican candidates. Gloria Weber and Jan Polizzi, two liberal female democrats were elected to the Missouri House in the south county area. But, Donna was to demonstrate what a committeeperson can do. Joe and she threw away the "crying towel" and began recruiting candidates. They worked hard for the candidates in the general election and when the dust settled and the votes counted in 1994, Gloria and Jan were no more. Donna replaced them with two conservative Republican candidates. Her outstanding service earned her "Republican of the Year" in Concord Township in 1995.

When Tesson Ferry Township was created from portions of Concord, Lemay and Oakville Townships, Donna was elected its first committeewoman in 1996: a position she held until 2000. She continued her distinguished work of electing or re-electing Republican candidates and worked tirelessly to strengthen both the Tesson Ferry Township Republican Club and the Township by reaching out to Republicans and encouraging their involvement.

But Donna was more than just a Republican activist. She was a supportive wife, a loving mother and a proud grandmother and great-grandmother. Donna always was willing to tell any listener about her family. She was so proud of them. Family members had served in the navy and she always was supportive of that branch of service. Donna was a proud navy mom.

Donna, your “dash” is inspiring and you will not be forgotten by your family, your friends and the many grateful Republican candidates you have served over the years. **Rest In Peace.**

Carl H. Hendrickson,

Anita Yeckel

It was not the typical Coffee Klatch. Instead of a friendly gathering of acquaintances, it was a group of very serious individuals, all with the same objective ... getting elected to office. Gathered around the kitchen table were candidates for public office from the south county area. As the senior elected official in the area, Senator Anita Yeckel often led the discussion of how to win elections. I was in the House along with Cathy Enz. Joining us at these “brain sessions” were individuals seeking office from the south county area. We shared both ideas and materials that our respective campaigns were using. From these Coffee Klatches came successes. Anita was elected to a second term in the Senate and Cathy and I were re-elected to the House until term limits forced us out.

Anita was elected to the Senate in 1996 and re-elected in 2000 in senate district 1. But her public service career began much before she was elected to the General Assembly. In 1990 she was elected to the Lindbergh School Board, serving the district for nine years. Education was one of her loves. But she also worked tirelessly for Missouri veterans. She was honored by the Missouri Association of Veterans' Organizations for advocating that veterans receive proper care.

Her leadership was appreciated not only by those of us who met with her at the Coffee Klatches in the hope of picking up advice and skills that would aid us in our election or re-election campaigns, but by her fellow Republican Senators. Anita was elected caucus secretary and caucus chair.

As chair of the Senate Elections Committee, Anita worked with Secretary of State Matt Blunt to draft significant election reform legislation. Cathy Enz and I served on the House Elections Committee and were proud to work with Anita toward getting changes in the election laws. Unfortunately, the change did not come about until after Cathy and I left office and the Republicans took control of the House. But, in June 2002, an election reform bill was signed into law. Her knowledge of election laws was recognized and appreciated by Governor Blunt, who named Anita to the St. Louis County Election Board.

Anita made an unsuccessful bid for Treasurer in 2004. Several Republicans ran that year and Sarah Steelman was the primary winner and went on to become State Treasurer. Nevertheless, Anita continued her service to the public, volunteering in many capacities with various organizations.

Anita and her husband, Bob, were very close. He supported her when she ran for public office and upon leaving the Senate, Bob was chosen as the Republican candidate for her soon-to-be-vacated seat. Unfortunately, he lost. Anita and Bob had two lovely daughters and three grandchildren, to which they both were very devoted.

She, along with Donna Matuszak, were two outstanding ladies and each played a major role in helping me get elected and re-elected to the Missouri House. I am sure I am not alone when I say, *“thank you and rest in peace.”*

Carl H. Hendrickson, former Missouri State Representative

October 8th Meeting: Tax Increase for Mehlville School District Pros and Cons



You will want to make a special effort to attend our October 8th meeting in which the TFTRC will have a speaker from the Show Me Institute who will present the case against a property tax increase as proposed by the Mehlville School District and a speaker from the Mehlville School Board who will present the case for such a tax increase. This will also be a good time to bring your questions. We've extended a special invitation to members of the other Republican township clubs who might also be interested in attending.



Integrity

As we follow the various events of the 2016 election cycle, keep one word in mind: *integrity*. It may not be the primary issue being discussed, but it colors the election in three areas: (1) media, (2) candidates, and (3) the election process itself. The lack of integrity in these areas results in a cynical public that dismisses the democratic process as broken and not worth pursuing.

Conservatives have long viewed the mainstream media as hopelessly biased and have turned to the Fox News Channel for their “fair and balanced” reporting. So when Megyn Kelly used her role as moderator in the first Republican debate as a cudgel to embarrass Donald Trump and “take him out” of the competition, it damaged her integrity as an objective journalist. It mirrors Candy Crowley’s performance in the third debate between Mitt Romney and Obama. Perhaps integrity isn’t high on Ms. Kelly’s list of priorities, but it ranks high on her audience’s. In the same way, polls have

become tools to shape public perception rather than objectively measuring public sentiment. Many folks merely dismiss them. The problem is that they run the risk of dismissing legitimate stories and information as well.

Candidates are also dealing with integrity issues. Hillary has so much baggage, it could possibly cost her the Democratic nomination. But the Republican Party has a major integrity problem as well. Trump is leading in the polls partly because voters would rather hear a poorly phrased honest answer from Trump than a well-crafted lie from a more experienced politician. Many Republican voters are attracted to candidates lacking a political background (Trump, Fiorina and Carson) largely because they feel that the current crop of politicians has promised a return to conservative policies, but has not even attempted to push through such an agenda. Grass roots activists worked hard to elect conservatives in the past two mid-term elections only to see their Congressional majorities melt into a bunch of wusses. They view the party as totally lacking integrity.

Finally, there's a lingering skepticism regarding the integrity of the election process itself. It's beyond absurd that judges can nullify voter ID laws on the basis of discrimination. Democrats can say that a newborn really isn't a "baby" until it leaves the hospital, but they have no qualms claiming a dead person can vote as long as they're voting Democrat. In addition, there are far too many documented cases of people voting multiple times in the same city and illegal aliens voting for officials to claim that the United States has fair elections. The lack of integrity in our election process is a major problem.

So as we look at the 2016 election, keep the word *integrity* in mind. It's central.

Christy Hessel – Newsletter Editor

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: <http://www.tfrepublicanclub.com/>



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