

**From the Chairman**

Fellow Members of Our Committee and Friends of Our Party,

I am excited to report to all of you that our Committee's willingness to reach for a new level has been met with a resounding success! The CCREC's inaugural Constitution Day dinner was attended by local, county, and state-wide leaders; representatives of the state Republican Party as well as the Republican National Committee; candidates for offices throughout the state; and generous individuals and business leaders from all over our county who came to support our Party's mission. The event was discussed on television and radio, and in print and internet media throughout the state. We made a statement: The Colbert County Republican Party means business, and we're here to stay!

Our Finance Chairman provides you with more details in a later section, but for the rest of mine I must remind us that it's back to work. We have a primary election coming on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, only 5 months away! The Committee will meet on Monday, September 23, when we'll approve our primary resolution.

We are still looking for candidates for County Commissioner for districts 3 and 4, County Superintendent of Education, and Board of Education member for district 3. There is lots of work to be done to win these offices for Republicans who will support our values as they make critical decisions for our future. We must double our efforts to raise funds to support our slate of candidates in the general election in November. Likewise, we also need volunteers to help candidates who may be running for the first time. They'll have

lots to learn and we have members with many years of experience.

Before I go, I must mention the sad news that I heard this week. Our governor has been diagnosed with lung cancer and will undergo radiation therapy. I ask you to pray for Kay Ivey, our top Republican in the state, who has some difficult times ahead.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our Committee and our Party. I hope to see you all at our next meeting!

Phill Green

**September Agenda**

The following items will appear on the agenda

- Approve August minutes
  - Approve August-September treasurer's report.
  - Funding for State Penalty for Late FCPA Filing (August). A first time penalty of \$300 has been assessed by the Secretary of State's office for the CCREC's August FCPA report. The report was due on September 4, but was filed on September 10<sup>th</sup>. A filing schedule has been established in the state system which will correct this issue.
  - Colbert County 2020 Primary Resolution
- Next Meeting October 28, 2019

**Upcoming Events**

The following is the most current calendar of election events for the Committee. The details of qualification for Republican candidates in Colbert County will be published in our primary resolution at the meeting in September.



Keep these dates in mind when planning events and when discussing county politics with potential Republican candidates for office. Please note that the dates for qualification are a full three months earlier than 2018!

Colbert County Committee Events Calendar	
Date (* Indicates Subject to Change)	Event
September 23, 2019	Colbert Republican Executive Committee Meeting Approval of county primary resolution.
October 8- November 8, 2019	Candidacy declaration period open
October 28, 2019	CCREC regular meeting
November 18, 2019	CCREC regular meeting
January 18, 2020	Deadline to report poll workers (45 days prior to election)
January 27, 2020	CCREC regular meeting
February 24, 2020	CCREC regular meeting
March 3, 2020	Statewide Primary Election
March 10, 2020, 5pm	CCREC chairman certifies primary results to ALGOP
March 23, 2020	CCREC regular meeting
April 14, 2020	Primary Runoff Election
November 3, 2020	Statewide General Election

**Primary 2020**

CCREC will begin the official process of preparing for the March 3, 2020 state-wide primary election during our September meeting. The county’s primary resolution will be approved at that meeting. This resolution establishes the dates when candidates may qualify with the Committee, the rules and processes for qualification, and the responsibilities and authorities of our Candidate Committee.

The primary resolution is a document that must be approved by the Committee each time a primary is held. In Colbert County we have made the effort to pass a primary resolution that outlines the process for candidates to follow as clearly as possible, as well as the offices that are up for election. This is a tradition that seeks transparency and equal access to all citizens who desire to serve.

There are some changes in the laws governing the process of primaries since 2018, and I want to highlight those here along with some terminology that we need to be familiar with. A letter I received from ALGOP, dated July 1, 2019, outlines the new requirement that: “The county canvassing board will meet at noon the Tuesday following the primary election to tabulate and certify the results. The county chairman must now certify those results to the ALGOP on the same day by 5pm.”

At this point one might ask: “what is the canvassing board?” For that answer I refer the reader to the Alabama Code 1975, and Section 17-1-2 “Definitions.” In paragraph (6) it states:

*CANVASSING BOARD. In all elections except primary elections, the canvassing board consists of the judge of probate, circuit clerk, and sheriff of the county. In primary elections, the county executive committee of the party is the canvassing board for the primary of the party.*

It is therefore the responsibility of the CCREC to tabulate and certify the results of the primary to the ALGOP by 5pm on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. To avoid calling a special meeting of the Committee to accomplish this, the proposed primary



resolution will delegate this responsibility directly to the Chairman. In the same way, the ALGOP executive committee also delegates this responsibility to the chairman at the state level.

There will be more discussion about the details of the proposed 2020 primary resolution at the next CCREC meeting on September 23. For more information about the definitions of terms used in laws and regulations that cover elections in Alabama, follow the link below to the official site for the state code.

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/CodeOfAlabama/1975/17-1-2.htm>

### **2020 Alabama State Fair**



The State Fair is here again! The Committee again occupies two booths to spread our message to fair-goers. Our booths are together in the same building and location as last year. The following are the dates and times the booths will be occupied: Tuesday, Sept. 17 through Friday, Sept. 20 from 5pm-10pm; Saturday, Sept. 21 from noon till 10pm; and Sunday, Sept. 22 from noon till 6pm.

Thanks to the Republican Women of the Shoals for the awesome booth set-up!

### **Constitution Day 2019 Is Over, but Not Forgotten**

From our Finance Chairman, Waylon Huguley:

WOW!

That is the word that comes to mind when I reflect on our Constitution Day Dinner. When our Chairman shared with me his vision of having a Constitution Day event hosted by the CCREC that would be something that we could all be proud of as Colbert County Republicans I immediately started thinking about the short amount of time we had before September 17th. I started thinking about who we could get as a speaker, the number of people that would be interested in coming to a, as Phil put it, "a nice sit down dinner". I'll be the first to admit that I was a little concerned about the funding that would be required, the short amount of time we had to plan, and the interest we would have in Phil's vision.

So with some admitted skepticism on my part we formed a planning committee made up of Sara White, Melanie Huguley, Daniel Rosser, and Phil Green. We started meeting weekly sorting through all of the details and constructing a plan. Each week things started falling into place. Each week I started seeing this "vision", not only be formed, but it started growing beyond what I thought possible. All I can say is WOW! These people immediately went to work and pulled off an amazing event. An event that the Colbert County Republican Party can and should be proud of. The attendance was phenomenal! We had elected leaders from municipal, county and state levels, RNC chair members, future Republican candidates, current candidates, a host of



Republican supporters from around the state, and our very own Alabama State GOP Chairwoman Terry Lathan in attendance. Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle did a fantastic job talking about the Constitution and how it has molded him as well as our country. A 232 year old document that is unmatched and is as strong today as ever!

There are so many people who stepped up and made this Constitution Day Dinner possible. I am amazed and proud of the way the CCREC supported every request that we made. I thank each one of you for supporting and believing in the "vision" of our Chairman. Together, WE ALL made that "vision" a reality!

Sincerely,

Waylon Huguley

CCREC Finance Chair





## **The United States Constitution, It Didn't Happen by Itself**

The following is the text that I used for my remarks at this year's Constitution Day dinner. I wanted to send these thoughts out to those of you who were not able to attend.

22 lawyers, 8 businessmen, 5 politicians, 2 soldiers, 1 farmer, 1 doctor, 1 teacher, and a minister put together a document on this day 232 years ago that launched the most successful form of government, as measured by the security and prosperity of its people, that the world has ever known. Standing as president of the convention, by unanimous consent, was George Washington, who had just 3 ½ years earlier laid down his sword and tendered his resignation as commander-in-chief, after having just beaten the most capable and professional army in the world at that time. By this act, Washington showed the world that this burgeoning experimental



government was not about to devolve into some chaotic free-for-all as had been seen many times following bloody revolutions, and would again in just a few short years to our closest ally (France).

General Washington was a soldier and not the architect of language needed to craft the words, but he had answered the call of those who knew that the collective process needed a shepherd. Let this be an example to us all.

What happened at that convention was summed up by the “Great Communicator”, Ronald Reagan, in his farewell address from the Oval Office on January 11, 1989:

*Ours was the first revolution in the history of mankind that truly reversed the course of government, and with three little words: “We the People.” “We the People” tell the government what to do; it doesn't tell us. “We the People” are the driver; the government is the car. And we decide where it should go, and by what route, and how fast. Almost all the world's constitutions are documents in which governments tell the people what their privileges are. Our Constitution is a document in which “We the People” tell the government what it is allowed to do.*

So, can you imagine what it must have been like on September 18th? George and Martha walking into the grad new White House after the inauguration... WRONG! There was no White House, there wasn't even a Washington, DC. For that matter, the Constitution wasn't even ratified for another year and a half! Eventually, long after Washington had left office, the government finally moved into the Capitol, and President Adams moved into the White House, but both of them were burned to the ground in 1814! Holding this alliance together was a struggle

from the beginning. As the years went by, however, we began to take this gift from our forefathers for granted.

Almost 200 years later, Ronald Reagan came to realize that he needed to get involved in the struggle to hold together our fragile alliance. He had seen forces in government that wanted to move away from Constitutional values and instead make up the rules as they went along in their quest for more power. He said:

*I went into politics in part to put up my hand and say, “Stop.” I was a citizen politician, and it seemed the right thing for a citizen to do.*

Reagan knew that:

*...man is not free unless government is limited. There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: **As government expands, liberty contracts.***

President Reagan was speaking at the end of his political career, and following what some of us now refer to as the “Reagan Revolution.” I grew up on this vision. I believe in it and its principles of government, and they have guided me ever since.

While he was confident in President Bush and the leaders that would take his vision forward, he wanted to remind us that we could never take for granted the gains we'd made. Even though the nineties hadn't yet begun, his concerns ring familiar to us even now. He said:

*Younger parents aren't sure that an unambivalent appreciation of America is the right thing to teach modern children. And as for those who create the popular culture,*



*well-grounded patriotism is no longer the style. Our spirit is back, but we haven't re-institutionalized it. We've got to do a better job of getting across that America is freedom -- freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of enterprise. And freedom is special and rare. It's fragile; it needs protection.*

### **The CCREC, Reflections on the Past and a Vision of the Future:**

Just like the Federal Government in Washington, the Republican Party in Colbert County didn't just drop out of the sky.

Beginning as far back as the late 1950's through 1960's, men like Don Wassner, W.H. Harris, and Charles W. Martin were working to build an organization here.

During the early 60's, Chuck Martin, son of Charles Martin, became a GOP supporter and got involved in the College Republicans. It was during this time that Chuck got to meet and speak with then candidate Richard Nixon at a College Republican function in 1966. (Later, Chuck recalls he was at another function when Nixon was travelling down a rope line and looked up into the massive crowd and called out "hey Chuck!")

Then came the 1980's: Chuck became the Reagan campaign manager for Colbert County in 1980. He chose then high school student, Tony Riley, as a volunteer to help organizing phone banks and run the campaign headquarters. They set a goal of 15% of the county-wide vote, and got over 23%. Chuck Martin and Don Wassner were the Party organization for much of the 1960's and into the 1980's. It wasn't until the 1990s that the Party was organized enough to have regular meetings of the Executive Committee.

During the 1990's the Shoals Republican Club was formed, and for the first time brought together enough potential voters together to attract candidates and elected officials to come and speak. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich came and spoke at the Listerhill CU in 1996. Former Reagan campaign worker, Tony Riley managed the first fully funded county-wide campaign for a Republican when David Bradford ran for Sheriff in 1998. They didn't win that election but, as we've seen even more recently, a well-organized campaign is enough to shake the confidence of the Democrats, which leads to retirements and eventually electoral success.

Other important leaders and workers in the Colbert Republican Party include long-serving Committee secretary Margaret Lovett , Jim Lovett, John and Clara Smallwood, Nell and Ben Law, Houston Cobb, Kyle Brown, Tim Leigh and Bobbie Lou Leigh, who once served as the state president of the Republican Women of Alabama. David Black moved back into the area in the late 1990s and he and his family became active in the Party at that time.

Finally, in 2012 David Black was the first Republican elected to the county commission since reconstruction. It was then that the Red Wave finally came at last to Colbert County.

Beginning in 2014, at the helm of the Republican Party was the best leader for that special time. Someone with an even temperament who knew how to listen, and also when to speak. Transitions like this had torn other county committees apart, with their intrigue playing out in public and in the media, but not ours. That's leadership! Chairman Fred Joly led the Committee through his term of four years that saw ten



Republicans elected to offices in the county for the first time, a record of electoral success that will not likely be matched.

-Phillip Green

**Immediate Past Chairman Fred Joly Awarded**

It was my pleasure to present Fred Joly an award on behalf of past and present members of CCREC in appreciation of his work as chairman of our Committee. Fred's tenure was marked by unprecedented electoral success. The inscription from the plaque reads as follows:

Presented by the Colbert County Republican Executive Committee

To

Chairman Fred Joly

In Appreciation of Your Service as Chairman

2014 – 2018

Your Tenure Will Be Remembered as the Most Successful for Our Party, When Republicans Were Elected to Ten Offices for the First Time Since Reconstruction

Tommy Barnes County Commission District 1

Thomas Barnes School Board District 1

Darol Bendall County Commission District 5

Sandra James School Board District 6

Justin Gasque County Coroner

Daniel Rosser Probate Judge

Kyle Brown Circuit Judge

Mark Eady Circuit Court Clerk

Andrew Sorrell State Representative District 3

David Yarber School Board District 2

