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HYR Events

2/28/06 - HYR Monthly Meeting at the Magnolia Hotel (downtown)

3/9/06 - HYR Happy Hour at Scott Gertner's Sports Bar

Other Events

Feb 21-Mar3 - Early Voting for the March 7 Republican Primary visit www.harrisvotes.com for locations and sample ballots.

April 19-23 - Young Republican Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. www.yrlc2006.com

A Letter from the HYR President: Welcome Back HYRs by David Beirne

To my fellow HYRs, I would like to welcome you to 2006 and a year that promises great things for our organization. This upcoming primary season and general election will represent a challenge for our Republican candidates and we will remain engaged throughout the election season to make sure our Republican principles are reflected in our elected representatives.

As the new HYR President, I would like to commend the previous leadership who provided our organization with strong financial standing and a reputation for our involvement and dedication. In 2006, we will remain active in our local campaigns and build on our past successes. At the same time, I am excited with the talent our new officers bring to the table and the wealth of experience they provide. We are about to embark on an ambitious fundraising campaign to support leadership development efforts.

Part of our fundraising efforts will be used to provide scholarships to those interested in attending the Young Republican Leadership Conference. For more information on the Young Republican Leadership Conference, please visit www.yrlc2006.com. The Young Republican Leadership Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. from April 19-23, 2006. If you are interested in developing your leadership skills, networking with the future leaders of the Republican Party and enjoying yourself in the nation's capital, then please mark your calendars for this opportunity.

Beyond personal leadership development, I am pleased with HYR's partnership with the Harris County Republican Party for the Senate District 7 candidate forum and will be announcing details on the first of HYR's leadership series-a private, HYR exclusive event with one of our local Republican elected leaders. Also stay tuned for more information on upcoming happy hours and special events as we continue to offer substantial benefits for our HYR members.

Texas Senate District 7 Campaign Heats up by Heidi Lee

The Senate District 7 Candidate forum was held at HCC West Loop Campus on Tuesday, January 24. All four republican candidates, Mark Ellis (Houston City Council), Peggy Hamric (Texas House of Representatives), Joe Nixon (Texas House of Representatives) and Dan Patrick (Conservative radio-talk-show host,) attended the forum and spoke candidly about their positions on the questions that moderator, Doug Miller of KHOU 11 News, asked.

The Republican Primary will be on March 7, 2006 and will decide which Republican candidate will run in the general election for incumbent, State Senator

Club Officers

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David Beirne

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Eron Linn

2nd Vice President

Lisa Smith

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Jay Sartain

Communications Director

Heidi Lee

Executive Committee

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Jessica Colón

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Barbara Williams
& Ginger Cearley

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Texas Senate District 7 continued...

Jon Lindsay's, seat. Lindsay will be retiring after serving as State Senator since 1997. For more on each candidate please visit their websites. (See links on page 3)

This was the first event that Harris County Republican Party and Houston Young Republicans jointly sponsored and was a great opportunity for HYR to be more involved in county issues. Thank you to everyone who attended the forum and represented HYR. Keep a look out for more opportunities and events to meet the candidates.



Commentary: Living in Ethical Limbo

by David Beirne

For many of us, the daily barrage of media calling attention to the current lobbying scandals means that we, as Republicans, are somehow all subject to additional scrutiny. Over the last few months, I have been thinking about the current situation with charges of ethical violations, potential bribery, etc. While we wait for this case with Jack Abramoff to expend its energy, it is important to note that we will continue to support our Republican leaders until they are proven guilty. Only then should we separate ourselves from the individual, but remain committed to our Republican principles.

At the end of the day, elections are about the individuals we choose to elect. If an elected official chooses to commit crimes, then it is a reflection upon that individual elected official's character rather than that of the party's principles. As a side note, it is interesting to see how the liberal media is already rewriting history from just a few weeks ago. Tom DeLay decided not to seek a House Leadership post because his own case is going to linger and the party needs to establish new leadership without this distraction. To read the news lately, it appears that DeLay has chosen not to seek the leadership post due to Abramoff's recent guilty plea-yet the two incidents are entirely unrelated.

Let us remember that we are all innocent until proven otherwise. Let the Democrats continue to espouse their conspiracy theories after DeLay beats Ronnie Earle's example of prosecutorial misconduct. For those involved with the Abramoff scandal, we will continue to support our party and our ideals, regardless of individual behaviors.

Links

Houston Young Republicans
www.houstonyr.com

Houston City Councilman
Mark Ellis
www.mark-ellis.com

State Representative
Peggy Hamric
www.peggyhamric.com

State Representative
Joe Nixon
www.joenixon.com

Dan Patrick
www.danpatrickforsenate.com

Don't Forget
HYR Membership Dues
for 2006 are
\$30 Single \$45 Couple

Commentary: Opposition to Alito Overblown

by Heidi Lee

On Tuesday January 31, 2006, the U.S. Senate confirmed Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court making him the 110th justice to serve on the Supreme Court. The confirmation provides many with a hope that the country's top court might be moving toward more restraint in its decision-making.

Despite Democrat's vocal opposition of Alito's nomination, four Democrats joined with all but one Republican to confirm Alito in a 58-42 vote. The Senate voted to end debate on January 30, eliminating the possibility of a filibuster intended to block or postpone the final vote, which was not expected, but many top Democrats threatened.

Senator Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island was the only Republican to vote against Alito. The Democrats who supported confirmation were Sens. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, Kent Conrad of North Dakota, Tim Johnson of South Dakota and Ben Nelson of Nebraska.

After the easy confirmation of John Roberts and the lack-luster nomination of Harriet Miers conservatives were waiting for a nomination that would share Roberts' judicial philosophy of applying original intent of the Constitution to rulings. The nomination of Alito gave Republicans a candidate to stand behind and a hope that his presence on the court would begin to sway decisions away from the mostly liberal direction shown in recent decades.

Opposition to Alito was more pronounced than Roberts', largely because of the kind of justice he was chosen to replace. While Roberts (who was confirmed in September 2005,) replaced a conservative, Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Alito was nominated to replace, Sandra Day O'Connor, a swing voter who often sided with the court's liberals on such contentious issues as abortion and church-state relations.

The addition of Alito, who has established a reputation for judicial restraint in his 15 years on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals may not completely reverse the direction of the court, but perhaps the influence of Alito and Roberts' will prove effective and rulings will deal more with the intent of the Constitution rather than political opinions.



Holiday Party Goes Off with Great Success

by Jay Sartain

On December 20, 2005, Houston Young Republicans hosted its annual Holiday Party at the Magnolia Hotel in downtown Houston. Approximately seventy-five members, elected officials, and guests attended to celebrate a successful year and to toast the outgoing and incoming HYR board.

The 2005 outgoing club officers included Jessica Colón – President, Will Hickman

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J. Patrick Luby

Mary Lynn and Justice Tim Taft

Verdene Ryder

Nikki and Judge Ken Wise

Holiday Party continued...

– First Vice President, A.J. Sullivan – Second Vice President, Tom Havron – Treasurer, and David Beirne – Communications Director. 2005 would not have been as successful without the leadership of these fine individuals.

Jessica Colón provided the crowd with some wrap-up tidbits from the year and introduced the incoming 2006 club officers. Special attention was given to the elected officials in attendance that have steadfastly supported HYR through the years. Incoming 2006 president, David Beirne, reminded the crowd of the important grass roots work that HYR does and challenged everyone to introduce new people to the club.

All in all, the Holiday Party for 2005 was a complete success.

**Early Voting for the
March 7th
Republican Primary
is
Feb 21st - March 3rd**

**visit www.harrisvotes.com
for early voting locations and
sample ballots.**