



Norfolk Republican NEWS Women

President Yvonne Reid
(757) 588-5107 or ylreid@cox.net

Vice President Stevie Giffin
(757) 583-8350

Treasurer Maria Escobar
(757) 427-0679.

Secretary Mary Haase
(757) 588-4805

www.norfolkrepublicanwomen.org

~JANUARY 2007 LUNCHEON MEETING AND PROGRAM ~

*Mr. Joseph Waymack, Exec. Director of the Southern Coalition for Secured Voting
Addresses Proposed Legislation to Increase Accuracy in VA Elections*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2007

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Radisson Hotel, 700 Monticello Avenue, downtown Norfolk

**\$15.00 per person. Buffet with Chef's Choice, Vegetable and Starch of the day,
Tossed Salad, Rolls and Butter, Iced Tea and Coffee, and assorted Desserts.**

*RSVP to Ellen Smith a 626-3591 by Monday evening, January 22nd or email slgiffin@cox.net
You may bring cash or check (made out to NRW) to the luncheon.*

Mr. Waymack to Address Election Accuracy in Virginia



Mr. Joseph Waymack, Executive Director of the Southern Coalition of Secured Voting, will address current problems with Virginia voting machines and proposed legislation to resolve them. His organization is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to ensure our elections are free from fraud, inaccuracy, and malfunction. He will discuss the important safeguards addressed in pending legislation in the General Assembly that are required to ensure our votes are not lost or miscounted. Delegate Tim Hugo (R-40th) and Sen. Devolities-Davis (R-34th) have introduced legislation to increase voting machine accuracy and to mandate that all voting machines have random audits. 27 states have already passed similar legislation, including Norfolk Carolina and West Virginia. He will discuss the problems, the proposed solution, and explain what you can do to help protect our democracy.



"The ultimate determinant in the struggle now going on for the world will not be bombs and rockets but a test of wills and ideas-a trial of spiritual resolve: the values we hold, the beliefs we cherish and the ideals to which we are dedicated."
--President Ronald Reagan

Former President Ronald Reagan's words are especially true today. The last election will test our resolve and dedication to our values and beliefs. Those politicians who remain steadfast and hold to core Republican principles will be rewarded most during the next election cycle. For those of you who supported our Republican candidates, thank you for your hard work and/or your generous campaign contribution. Many of you had a part in re-electing Congresswoman Thelma Drake to the 2nd District. As we go forward, all of us need to continue to support our candidates more than ever in order to ensure that our Republican values are preserved and realized in this great country. They will be under attack with the Democrats in charge so we need to not lose sight of what we're fighting for:

- * equal rights, justice and opportunity for all - not "special" rights for various groups.
- * self-reliance to keep government small, ensuring our individual liberties are preserved and the cost of government doesn't overburden the individual who after all is the strength of our democracy.
- * free enterprise - the engine of our robust economy that's produced the lowest unemployment rate in over 40 years and powered the stock market to recent new highs ever since the Bush tax cuts were enacted in 2003.

Thank you for re-electing me to serve you in 2007. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Yvonne

Mark your calendars this year with all of the NRW meeting dates. Your attendance is important to this Club! Make note of these dates in order that you can schedule your other commitments on dates other than NRW meeting times:

**February 22nd, March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th
September 27th, October 25th, November 15th**

We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month January through May, recess for June, July and August, and then resume meetings in September. In November we meet the third Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving. Instead of a meeting in December, we have a Christmas Party and install the newly elected officers on a date to be determined.

As the new 110th Congress convened this month, the Senate and House of Representatives' legislative agenda is now controlled by the new Democrat majority leaders. So far, the Senate is discussing lobbying and ethics reform legislation, and minimum wage increase. The Democrats want a "clean" minimum wage bill to include a simple increase, however, Republicans are trying to assure an increase that is coupled with tax breaks for small businesses to help them offset some of the increased cost. It is possible that the Senate will then turn to the stem cell research legislation.

The House voted this week to raise the federal minimum wage, with Democratic leaders barring all amendments. The minimum wage would increase to \$7.25 an hour in 3 steps over two years. The vote was 315-116, with 82 Republicans voting for the bill. It is possible that the Senate bill will be voted upon next week. Other proposed House measures that may be taken up on the floor include implementation of the 9/11 recommendations, lobbying and ethics reform, and Medicare drug prices. Following the President's speech this week, both the Senate and House plan to hold votes forcing lawmakers to take positions on the addition of troops to Iraq, and the President's new Iraq War strategy. Hearings will also be held in both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to review the President's plan in more detail, and receive testimony from Defense Secretary Gates.

Excerpts from THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary, December 8th 2006

More Than 7 Million Jobs Created Since August 2003

Real Wages Rose 2.8 Percent in 2006.

This means an extra \$1,687 for the typical family of four with two wage earners.

Real After-Tax Income Per Person Has Risen By 9.4 Percent –

\$2,777 – Since The President Took Office.

Real Consumer Spending, Supported By Strong Job Gains And Rising Personal Income, Rose At An Annual Rate Of 3.4 Percent In The First Three Quarters Of 2006.

Our Economy Has Grown A Solid 3 Percent Over The Past Four Quarters

– Faster Than Any Other Major Industrialized Country.

Productivity Has Grown At An Annual Rate Of 3 Percent Since The First Quarter Of 2001, Up From A 2.4 Percent Annual Rate During The Preceding Five Years.

Growing productivity has helped America lead the world in manufacturing, producing almost twice as much as second-place Japan last year.

Employment Increased In 42 States Over The Past 12 Months Ending In October.

As you can see from the previous economic statistics, the President's rate reductions and other pro growth tax relief have produced a strong, resilient economy. The American people need to let the Democrats know that they do not want the tax cuts rescinded which would reverse this pro growth trend and the economy would deteriorate quickly and drastically. If they rescind the tax cuts, get out of the stock market!

Yvonne

Excerpts from Senator Nick Rerras' Legislative Report - Jan. 11, 2007

...the morning of our first day of session in Richmond contained the typical flurry of legislative bill introductions. I think we may be setting a record this session on the total number of bills submitted, which currently is well over 4000, and could even surpass 5000. That's a lot of work when you consider the first bill we covered in my Senate Education and Health Committee took over an hour to get to the vote. Fortunately, we divide the bills among our standing committees so we can more effectively address each piece of legislation.

Later on that evening, Governor Kaine delivered an excellent speech that focused both on our record of accomplishments in Virginia, and on some of the major challenges that we face. The Governor reminded us that Virginia is rated as the "most business friendly state in America". Over the past several years, Virginia has also been rated as the best managed state in America. The Governor also noted that national education publications have ranked Virginia's public education system as among the best in the nation.

I was pleased to see that the Governor also is proposing an additional \$250 million dollars to help clean the bay. Last year, it was my honor to support over \$240 million of new funds for restoring the Chesapeake Bay, which is a national treasure.

I look forward to providing more information on these issues, and other important issues, such as my constant goal to protect the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel's independence and funding, in future legislative update reports.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Senate of Virginia. During the 2007 General Assembly Session, you are welcome to call my Richmond office at 804-698-7506, or you can e-mail me at district06@sov.state.va.us.

You are welcome to call the General Assembly Constituent Viewpoint Hotline at 1-800-889-0229 anytime and leave a message about your concerns. It is always very helpful to know how people feel about the important issues that we face.

Nick Rerras,
Senator, Virginia's Sixth District

More pictures are posted on our website of the Christmas Party. Log onto www.norfolkrepublicanwomen.org and view them all!



Yvonne Reid with Virginia Delegate Phil Hamilton (R,) 93rd District, addressed Health Care Oversight at the November 2006 meeting



Congresswoman Thelma Drake installs 2007 NRW Officers: L to R: Ann Fletcher, Chaplain, Maria Escobar, Treasurer, Mary Haase, Secretary, Yvonne Reid, President (Stevie Giffin, Vice President, not present)



Bev Graeber accepts the 2006 Annual Thelma Drake Award. The recipient is A NRW member who has exhibited - commitment, reliability, and dedication in conducting support activities that achieve Republican Party goals and/or work toward electing our candidates. You deserve it, Bev. Congratulations!



L to R: VA Senator Nick Rerras, Ted Drake Congresswoman Thelma Drake, Yvonne Reid, and David Hodnett

At Right: NRW Christmas Party in the Dining Room at Norfolk Yacht & Country Club, December 11th.

