



Volume 30, Issue 2

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# The National Pachyderm

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## Special points of interest:

- Need a Tough Tusk Award nomination form? Check out a variety of nomination and requirements forms on our new website!
- The new website features GOP links and testimonies on the new website.
- Out of town and want to visit another club? Use Club Locator on the new website!
- Where can you find all kinds of great information about the Pachyderm Club? Cruise over to [www.pachyderms.org](http://www.pachyderms.org)!

## Mark Your Calendars! National Biennial Conference to “Blaze New Trails”

It's not too early to make plans to attend the 2011 Biennial Conference next June!

The conference of The National Federation of the Grand Order of Pachyderm Clubs will be held Thursday evening June 23 through Saturday, June 25, 2011 in historic St. Charles, Missouri. (St Charles is across the Missouri River from St. Louis.) The theme of the conference is "Blazing New Trails."

This important national conference will focus on:

- Helping local club officers become even

better leaders of their clubs and communities.

- Helping our local clubs grow in membership and influence.
- Further develop our national organization.
- Offering information on successful political campaigns.
- And inspiring all citizens for a successful Republican campaign in November 2012.

Every effort is being made to make your journey to St. Charles worth your time and

the expense. "We encourage at least two people to attend from each of our clubs. Because of travel expenses, etc. it is suggested that local clubs help attendees with expenses, if at all possible," said Tom McElwain, second vice-president and conference chairman.

The committee is working to secure a well known, prominent, GOP celebrity to present the keynote address. Come to St. Charles and become an even better Pachyderm! Many more details will follow as the plans develop!

## Exceptional Club Members Receive Tough Tusk Awards

**John Angwin** is a member of the **Five Valleys Club** of Missoula, MT. He has been a tremendous supporter of the Pachyderms. A member for over 15 years, John has served the club as a past officer, a board member and an ex-officio member while leading the county central committee. His nomination as a recipient of the Tough Tusk Award was approved January 23, 2010 by the Awards Committee of the National Board.

**Yantis D. Green** is a member of the **San Angelo Pachyderm Club** in San Angelo, TX. He has been a member of the San Angelo Pachyderm Club for

eight years. Yantis can always be counted on to assist in setting up the meeting room, leading the members in prayer or being a guest speaker. Yantis has served in many fields of politics and governmental affairs. He was a delegate from his club to the National Pachyderm Biennial Conference 2009 held in Las Vegas this past September. Currently he is a Republican Candidate for the Tom Green County Commissioners Court.

His nomination was approved on February 15, by the National Board.

**Mike Zweifel** is a member of the **Pachyderm Columbia Club**

**#1** in Columbia, MO. Mike is the medium through which all GOP organizations in Boone County, MO communicate. He is involved in keeping his club informed of current events, calendars and the newsletter. His nomination was approved October 23, 2009 by the National Awards Committee.

**Charles Wick** is a member of **The Greater Elkhart Pachyderm Club** in Elkhart, IN. He became a member of the Pachyderm Club in 1989. He has served as the president of the club as well as on numerous committees. Charles was on the National Board of Directors for the Pachyderm Clubs 1997-1998.

The National Awards Committee approved his nomination on November 2, 2009.

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## The President's Remarks

By John D. Wiemann

Given that we are in the midst of elections this year I think it is important to clarify Pachyderm's role in relation to the Republican Party and the candidates running in the primary and general elections. One of the most prevalent questions I receive from club officers is, "What can our clubs do to support the Republican Party, candidates and elected officials?"

Our club bylaws specifically state that we are "to promote understanding and harmony within the Republican Party as it deals with divisive issues."

Furthermore, the bylaws state, "It is the policy of this organization to offer a non-profit association of citizens who can break bread together regardless of their political leaning within the Republican Party, free from factional entanglement." Finally, our club bylaws explicitly state that we don't endorse candidates during contested primaries. For example, if your club wanted to host a party or picnic for all the Republican candidates on election night that would not violate this rule. It is imperative that you avoid showing favoritism toward any candidate and demonstrate fairness to all Republican candidates and officeholders.



John D. Wiemann

Obviously, clubs can endorse Republican candidates during the general election.

While our organization supports the party at all levels, we are not controlled by the Republican National Committee and therefore, are free to pursue our own goals and objectives independently. After the McCain Feingold Campaign Finance Reform law was passed in 2002, it created considerable challenges to all politically related organizations similar to the Pachyderms. The RNC took the position of "at arm's length" toward all allied organizations.

In fact, all officially recognized allied organizations were asked to stop attending RNC leadership meetings. In 2004 the National Board sought and obtained a legal opinion regarding the implications of the McCain Feingold Campaign Finance Reform law as to our affiliation with the RNC and how we should conduct club operations. On the advice of our legal counsel, we advised all clubs to not provide any type of campaign support to candidates in order to mitigate potential legal implications.

As we all know, the Pachyderm Club is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)4 or not for profit organization. We are not a

political action committee (PAC) and therefore cannot make contributions to any political party or candidate.

Those clubs who feel compelled to raise funds and distribute campaign contributions to candidates should create a separate PAC (with no reference to the Pachyderm name) and file the required quarterly and annual paperwork with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and the applicable state election authority. Pachyderms can support the party and candidates by other means. Specifically, clubs can supply volunteers, host public forums for candidates to speak, and encourage members to make individual contributions to candidates.

Given the recent Supreme Court ruling on the McCain Feingold law, we are currently seeking a revised legal opinion regarding what our organization and clubs can and cannot do on behalf of state and federal candidates. We are hopeful that the Supreme Court ruling will allow us greater flexibility in working with the local, state and national Republican Party along with the political candidates. I hope my remarks have clarified the current position of the National Pachyderms and provide a better understanding of what we can and should do on behalf of the Republican Party.

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*"We are not a political action committee (PAC) and therefore cannot make contributions to any political party or candidate."*

# Club News

## Greater KC Pachyderm Club Active with Meetings, Teen Sponsorship

Cathy Owens, President, reports, "Our club helped to sponsor the recent Teen Pact Program in the state's capitol. Two young ladies gave a marvelous testimony on what Teen Pact can do for our youth in teaching politics and government in a Godly way."

Two Kansas City club members made generous donations to the Pachyderm Foundation for a young man from Westport High School to attend Boys' State as a George Parker Foundation youth in June.

The club, located in Jackson County, meets weekly on Tuesdays. The club meets the first three Tuesdays of the month at the Golden Ox, 1600 Genessee in Kansas City and the fourth and fifth Tuesdays at V's Ristorante on 40 Highway just west of Chrysler in Independence."

The club has about 30 members.

## Hamilton County Pachyderm Club News

There is much excitement coming from Chattanooga, TN as the Hamilton County Club continues to grow in numbers and stature!

President Marty Von Schaaf said, "Our club is making plans to sponsor a debate among the District 3 Congressional Candidates prior to the August Primary. We have six fine Republicans in the race."

In addition, the club is planning to host a special evening with the Republican nominee for Governor after the August primary.

Hamilton County opened the new year by welcoming Republican State Senator, Bo Watson, who gave an overview of issues facing Tennessee. The club has also invited Republican candidates running for Hamilton County Sheriff; the District 3 Congressional seat; and County Commission seats. The club has

more forums scheduled through the local, state, and national primaries. All these candidates are members of the Hamilton County Pachyderm Club. Club member and past national board member, Zach Wamp, is currently vacating his District 3 Congressional seat to run for the office of Governor.

Current club membership is 221. Hamilton County meets at noon every Monday in a



Current Hamilton County officers are seated from left, David Howell, treasurer, Marty Von Schaaf, president, Bill Young, vice president, Hermena Litton, secretary. Standing, Luanne DeWitt, assistant treasurer, Joe Graham, director, David Norton, director, Ron Bhalla, director.

downtown hotel, with the exception of some holidays. Average attendance is about 65. Members with e-mail addresses receive weekly updates informing them of the week's speaker as well as upcoming guests.

# Tennessee Rep. Honored

At the Hamilton County Pachyderm Club June meeting Rep. Gerald McCormick was recognized for legislation he sponsored to enable Tennessee's overseas military personnel to receive absentee ballots electronically.



Rep. Gerald McCormick

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre' Haggert was present to award Rep. McCormick with the National Secretaries of State Medallion Award for his work on the legislation. Rep. McCormick said the new law enables military personnel to get their ballots quickly, print them out, and return them in time for their vote to count.

*"Our freedoms are not safe unless we as citizens invest ourselves in government..."*  
Ronald Reagan

## Meritorious Service Award Presented

The San Angelo Club (TX) recognized the hard work and dedication of Emma "Lou" Brown by awarding her the Meritorious Service Award March 12, 2010.

Mrs. Brown served the Club as its secretary for nine years. "She is a sterling example of an American patriot who reflects great

honor on our club, party, country and community," said Tony Massaro, Club President.

This award is given to a member of the Pachyderm Club to acknowledge his/her work in the club that has gone beyond the basic requirements of his or her position.

### Top Clubs

1. Hamilton County, TN 221
2. Glacier Country, MT 158
3. Galveston Island, TX 151
4. Greater Houston, TX 145
5. St. Charles County, MO 138



## 2010 National Board



President: [John Wiemann](#)



1st Vice President: [Luanne H. DeWitt](#)



2nd Vice President: [Tom McElwain](#)



3rd Vice President: [Bob Shults](#)



Secretary: [Peggy Meyer](#)



Treasurer: [Penny Henke](#)



Immediate Past President: [Joe Briggs](#)

Director 2011: Colonel Sam Roberts



Director 2013: [Thelma Baker](#),



Director 2013: [J.D. Joyce](#)



Director 2013: [A. Wayne Wallingford Jr.](#)



Director 2012: [Earl Lairson](#)

## Board Member Profile

### Luanne H. DeWitt Serves as the NFPC 1st Vice President

Luanne DeWitt joined the Chattanooga Pachyderm Club in 1991, and has served as treasurer, vice president and president. The club nominated her for the Tough Tusk Award which

she received in 1998. The club began to grow and changed its name to the Hamilton County Pachyderm Club to be inclusive of the area.

Luanne became a Director at Large on the National Board in 1999, and was nominated to become Secretary in 2005.

She served in that position until 2009 when she was nominated to be the First Vice President in John Wiemann's first term as President of the National Federation of Pachyderm Clubs. Luanne has worked in many campaigns for Republican candidates, local to federal. She has served on the Hamilton County Election Commission.

Outside of her political involvement, she has always been involved in her church serving in many different capacities. She is a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, having served her State Society as Treasurer for three years.

She and her husband, Monty, have operated their own businesses since 1972. Even in retirement, they opened an antique store.

Luanne and Monty have three grown married children and three grandchildren.



Luanne DeWitt

*“People do not follow a leader without a compass.”*

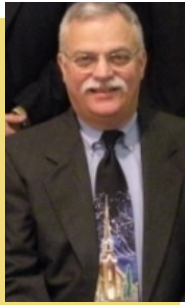


**Opinion Shaper**

**Now Is the Time to Deal with Political Climate Changes**

By Marty Von Schaaf  
 President  
 Pachyderm Club of Hamilton  
 County Tennessee

The cold temperatures of winter have subsided and the warmth of summer is finally here. Gone as well is much of the debate over “global climate change”, the myth spun by Al Gore. What is left to deal with now is the political climate change occurring across our nation.



Marty Von Schaaf

In January 2009, Barack Obama took over the White House with Harry Reid as Senate majority leader and Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The political movements these leaders have made awakened a sleeping, politically passive nation and have renewed much

interest in our nation’s greatest document, the Constitution of the United States.

These are extremely important as well as perilous times in which we live. Our nation stands on the brink of what could signal the change of the entire complexity of our democratic Republic. New ideals, new faces, a new party, new attitudes and new understanding stand in defiance of old ideals, old faces, two old parties, old partisan attitudes and the same

old lack of understanding. Barack Obama said it, but I don’t think he saw the possible result. “Change is on the way!”

In opposition to the new leadership and its political

idealism, the Tea Party was born and is gaining strength day by day. The largest segment of this movement is conservative with special emphasis on the Constitution. Many, perhaps the majority, are Republicans. They have the same core values as Republicans: retain the First and Second Amendment rights, fiscal responsibility, family values and right to life, smaller government, lower taxes, strong military defense, equal rights, justice and opportunity.

There is one problem. I recently saw a hypothetical question posted on one of the Fox shows: “Will Sarah Palin be the Tea Party Presidential candidate in 2012?” My first thought was, “I wonder if any Democrats saw that?” The outcome of such a proposal seems obvious. Split the vote. Re-elect Barack Obama. Concerned yet?

Let’s take our focus off the national scene, which a single county party could ill-affect, and consider the effects of such a scenario on the local level. Should we encounter three party candidates in a county race, what could be the ramifications? I realize this is only speculation, but so is the stock market. The successful players must be adept at anticipation based on market information and dissemination.

My point is simple; we must come to terms with the Tea Party as a politically viable movement that has sprouted from our own ranks and closely aligns with our Republican political philosophy. We must find common ground to accomplish unification. The father of our party, Abraham Lincoln, taking a page from the

Psalms, said “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” In this political climate, now is the time to agree and unite.

Our leaders and their leaders need a round table, representative of a circle unbroken, at which to sit and amicably discuss unifying principles that will align these two movements and strengthen our party. Failure to unify could have effects on our local government that could change our local political landscape for many years, not to mention rendering decisions that might be irreversible. It is my firm belief that neither party wishes to exchange political leadership for the stewardship of our community.

Pachyderm Clubs are a great forum for exchanging ideas, supporting the values of the Republican Party as well as a place to begin such discussions.

We need to talk! Change is on the way!

*“In this political climate, now is the time to agree and unite.”*



**The Pachyderm Foundation**

“There is no such thing as a democratic nation without political leaders.”

The Foundation provides scholarships for students to help and encourage future political leaders.

You can help!  
 Mail contributions to:  
 The Pachyderm Foundation  
 PO Box 585  
 Columbia, MO 65205  
 A 501(c)(3) entity; gifts are tax deductible.  
 Bill Phelps, Chairman

“Success without a successor is failure.”

# Civility and Courtesy Are Hallmarks of Pachyderm Clubs

By Tom McElwain  
2nd Vice President

The Pachyderms are to be a unifying place for all Republicans to come and “break bread.” As Pachyderms we need to do everything possible to help heal the wounds of a tough primary season and encourage people to get behind our general election candidates.

I have highlighted some wonderful nuggets of information from our handbook about civility and how we should treat our fellow Republicans. I looked through the manual and the Pachyderm brochures and found in the Handbook two areas that cover the civility issue. The Kindness and Leadership section (pages 2-18), suggests that, “Courtesy must prevail at all times.”

You will find the last two sentences in paragraph 3 of Program Tips (pages 6-24), to be helpful.

In addition, I have included the following suggestions to assist in the atmosphere of civility:

- Cut off any ridicule, sarcasm, snide remarks, clapping at controversial statements,
- Interrupt the speaker when there are side conversations to get them stopped and to be courteous to the speaker,
- Remind our members of President Reagan's 11th Commandment, "Don't criticize fellow Republicans!"
- Having a "Thank the

Candidates" gathering to bring winners and losers and their supporters together to show our appreciation for their efforts. Keep reminding the candidates that the gathering will be a lot more fun if you haven't spoken ill of your opponent!

- If you have the opportunity to have legislative primary candidates speak, ask them to say why they think they can beat the Democrat in November, rather than castigate their GOP opponent.



Tom McElwain



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**An Official Allied Organization of The Republican  
National Committee.**

**We're on the web!**

**[www.pachyderms.org](http://www.pachyderms.org)**

## Plan Now for Club Elections

Now is the time for each club to start looking ahead to the November election of at-Large Directors. Under club by-laws, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three club members by July 1 of each year.

By the last regular club meeting in September, this committee shall submit nominations for at-Large Directors from the membership. Any member may also submit nominations for directors provided the nominations are received in writing by the Club Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the election. Each Director shall be elected for a term of three years.

Elections are to take place at the first regular meeting in November. It is crucial that the nominating process begins now.

If your club has yet to start this process, please put it on your next Board Meeting agenda in order to give ample time to recruit members to replace those who will be rotating off your board after serving their elected term of service.

If you have any questions regarding the election process, please e-mail Arlene Hogue at [ahogue@pachyderms.org](mailto:ahogue@pachyderms.org) or call our toll free number, 888-467-2249.