

# The National Pachyderm

*Published by:*

*The National Federation of the Grand Order of Pachyderm Clubs, Inc.*

### Special points of interest:

- We encourage our members to be active and effective.
- Why not host a community picnic or ice cream social where the candidates can have access to voters in a fun setting.
- Why not sponsor a campaign school to train both members and nonmembers alike in the nuts and bolts of campaigns?

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## President's Ponderings

I am pleased to report that the Pachyderm organization is energized and moving forward on many fronts. In fact, some changes have already occurred, while other club improvements are currently being planned. Last year, many long-time national board members and leaders stepped down to allow new leaders to join the board. The new officers are enthusiastic about their responsibilities and are prepared to work hard. As the new President of the Pachyderms, I am honored to lead and guide this organization to new heights. In the next few months, many exciting club improvements will take place behind the scenes while others will be noticeable and clearly demonstrate the value of the National Federation to the local clubs and individual members.



In particular, the board has approved a significant investment in the development of a top-notch website. We anticipate the new Pachyderm website will go live in February 2010. It will be visually appealing, professional and informative for both members and prospective members. Furthermore, the website will automate many national

functions (i.e. updating member records, online store, joining or renewing membership online) via the website in order to improve organizational efficiencies.

Finally, we intend to utilize the professional services of an advertising agency that will provide strategic communications planning, graphic design, brand management, public relations, media planning, market research, and event planning. The bottom line is our organization is focused on significantly improving our image and discovering new ways to effectively communicate our purpose to the citizens of the United States.

As many of you know, throughout the United States people have become alarmed by the radical actions of our President and the Democratic-controlled Congress. Given the current state of the country, many Americans are looking for a way to become involved in the political process. While many citizens believe the Republican Party has let them down, the Pachyderms are in a unique position to help guide the party back to its core values. This

year the Pachyderms will play a critical role in attracting and educating new active citizens and creating new leaders within the Republican Party.

In closing, I firmly believe the National Federation of Pachyderms will become a major movement within the Republican Party. Now more than ever we have the opportunity to grow our organization and help achieve the goals of George Parker and other past club leaders by providing a practical means for broad citizen participation in politics, promoting practical political education and dissemination of information on our political system, promoting the development of potential political leaders and assisting the Republican Party, whose purpose we believe is to provide leadership in government, protect individual rights and freedoms, clean government with local emphasis and keep the public informed on the status of our government.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National President for the next two years. I look forward to working with you to make a positive change for our club and country.

Sincerely,

*John D. Wiemann*

**Officers & Board of Directors for the National Federation of Pachyderm Clubs**



John D. Wiemann



Luann H. DeWitt



Tom McElwain



Bob Shults



Peggy Meyer



Penny Henke

<b>National President</b>	John D. Wiemann	O'Fallon, MO
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Luann H. DeWitt	Chattanooga, TN
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Tom McElwain	Columbia Falls, MT
<b>3rd Vice President</b>	Bob Shults	Houston, TX
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Meyer	Cleveland, TN
<b>Treasurer</b>	Penny Henke	St. Louis, MO
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Joe Briggs	Great Falls, MT
<b>Regional Director 2011</b>	Col. Sam Roberts	Missoula, MT
<b>Regional Directors 2013</b>	Thelma Baker	Missoula, MT
	J. D. Joyce	Houston, TX
	Wayne Wallingford	Cape Girardeau, MO
<b>Regional Directors</b>	Randy Knowles	Great Falls, MT
	Earl Lairson	Houston, TX
<b>Executive Director</b>	Arlene Hogue	St. Charles, MO
		<a href="mailto:ahogue@pachyderms.org">ahogue@pachyderms.org</a>

**Members, be sure to include your e-mail address with all correspondence.**

**Thank you.**



Bill Phelps, right, introduced the new officers during the Biennial Conference and then administered the oath of office.

## Pachyderm Across the Nation

### New Clubs Added in 2009

The rise of Pachyderm Clubs continues to spread across the United States as seven new clubs were formed in 2009.

The first new club was **Treasure Valley Pachyderms of Boise**, Idaho which was chartered on January 14, 2009. Next was the **Benton County Pachyderm Club**, chartered on March 27 in Warsaw, Missouri. Our very first club in Illinois was the **Metro-East Pachyderm Club**, chartered on June 14 at a large Flag Day Celebration in O’Fallon, Illinois.

July brought an addition of three clubs: the **Gasconade County Pachyderm Club** in Owensville, Missouri on July 1; in Houston, Texas, the **Pachyderm Club of Northwest Houston** on July 14 and on July 15 the **Pachyderms of Post Falls**, Idaho charter was granted. The club has now officially changed its name to the **Panhandle Pachyderm Club** to better reflect the greater area covered by its member base.

The **Clay County Pachyderm Club** in North Kansas City, Missouri was chartered on October 8, completing our contingent of seven new clubs for the 2009 year.

Congratulations to the new clubs and to the many dedicated volunteers who spent many hours bringing the clubs to fruition.



Robin Smith, past Tennessee State Chairman of the Republican Party and current candidate for Congress, was the keynote speaker during the Biennial Conference

### Top 10 Clubs in 2009

Hamilton County Pachyderm Club, Chattanooga, TN	217
Galveston Island Pachyderm Club, Galveston, TX	170
Five Valleys Pachyderm Club, Missoula, MT	150
Greater Houston Pachyderm Club, Houston, TX	135
St. Charles County Pachyderm Club, St. Charles, MO	135
Glacier County Pachyderm Club, Kalispell, MT	108
Platt County Pachyderm Club, Platt County, MO	90
Randolph Area Pachyderm Club, Moberly, MO	81
Gasconade County Pachyderm Club, Owensville, MO	80
Columbia Pachyderm Club, Columbia, MO	76

### Membership Lapel Pins Revised

Those of you who have been members since the beginning of Pachyderm Clubs back in 1967 will recall that the lapel pin given to each member upon joining has long been the familiar Republican elephant symbol. It has been updated several times, going from shiny brass to enameled black and always prominently displaying the Pachyderm “P.”

In 2007 the Board of Directors made another revision, one that would include the name

“Pachyderm” for better identification. The selected design is still the familiar black elephant bearing the letter “P”, centered on a gold, horizontal oval pin. The word PACHYDERM is arched over the elephant. The new design better identifies the Pachyderm Club and the gold metal stands out on light or dark backgrounds.

“This striking pin is testimony to a club member on the move,” said President John Wiemann.

The new pins were distributed to club presidents in January for presentation to all new members. Existing members who would like to have the new pin may do so by ordering through the local club secretary for \$2 each. A limited number of the black elephant pins are still available at the same price until the supply is gone.



*Free  
government  
requires  
ACTIVE  
citizens.*

## Conference Highlights Accomplishments, Elections

By Luanne DeWitt  
1st Vice-President

The National Pachyderm Biennial conference will be remembered as one of honoring accomplishments and highlighting the steps necessary for effective and successful campaigns.

Held September 18 and 19 at the Tuscany Suites in Las Vegas, this conference featured outstanding accommodations and top notch speakers and workshop tracks. Retiring President Joe Briggs welcomed conference attendees and then gave descriptions of the two tracks available. Club officers and directors led the Officers Training School which featured Pachyderm History and Purpose, Club Leadership, Pachyderm Foundation Policy and Federal Campaign Law. This track ended with a roundtable discussion.

The second track featured a Campaign School, conducted by Patrick Davis and Kelly Casady. Mr. Davis has served successfully in a number of roles within the Republican family; but is best known as the Political Director of the National Republican Senatorial Campaign in 2004.

## Bylaws Changes Made

The National Board of Officers and Directors approved the following addition to the Standard Club Bylaws:

Under Article XI Amendments, Section 2 was added which reads: "Local Pachyderm Clubs shall comply with the standard club Bylaws and are prohibited from developing any other manuals or rules of operation.

"The intent of these changes is to prevent clubs and state federations from enacting local rules and procedures that usurp or conflict with National Bylaws," said Jeannine Stewart, chairman of the Bylaws Committee.

Mr. Casady is a founding partner of Letter23, a full service advertising and public relations agency. He has over 20 years of experience in designing and implementing public relations and communications campaigns.

Topics included: Building and Executing a Campaign Plan, Campaign Messaging and Themes, Utilizing Traditional Media, Creating Earned Media, Electronic Campaigning, Web Sites and Social Networks, Polling and Financing.

Ms. Robin Smith, past Tennessee State Chairman of the Republican Party and current candidate for Congress from the 3rd District in Tennessee, was the keynote speaker. An enthusiastic and inspiring speaker, Ms. Smith enthralled the audience with her successes on behalf of the Republican Party in Tennessee.

The conference closed with a banquet Saturday night. Highlights included installation of the new officers; fond memories of George W. Parker, founder of the Pachyderm clubs, and awards for outstanding service to outgoing officers.

Make plans now to be a part of the 2011 Biennial Pachyderm Conference in St. Charles, Missouri.

## 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."

## Officers Receive Awards

**Jeannine Stuart**, outgoing 1st Vice President, received the National Meritorious Service



Award for her 19 years of service to National Pachyderm, having been the first woman to serve on the National Board.

**Glenn Grantom**, outgoing 2nd Vice President, was



presented the National Tough Tusk award for his hard work as a Republican in the state of Texas and

his efforts to expand the Pachyderm Club movement into more states in the union.

**Bill Phelps**, Immediate Past President, received the award for National Meritorious Service in



acknowledgement of his service to the National Board, always attending the Board Meetings and the Biennial Conferences throughout his service as Past President.

## George W. Parker, National Club Founder, Dies; Leaves Exciting Legacy

One of the highlights of the Biennial Conference was a memorial tribute to founder, George Parker, during the Saturday night banquet.

Mr. Parker died in late May of 2009. He will be remembered as a staunch believer in conservative causes, personal freedom, and civil public discourse. Mr. Parker was instrumental in rebuilding Missouri's Republican Party.

He was a decorated World War II bomber pilot who served three terms in the state House before an unsuccessful run for state treasurer. He was widely known in political circles for his dedication to a two-party system of government, his advocacy for separation of church and state, and his energetic belief in improving society through honest public service.



Retired from the US Air Force with the rank of major, Mr. Parker served 21 years. He flew 62 B-26 medium bomber missions including an assignment on D-Day. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Purple Hearts.

In 1966, Mr. Parker was elected as the first Republican from Boone County to serve in the state House since before the Civil War. He later wrote a book, "How to Win an Impossible Election: The Authentic Campaign of One Who Did."

George believed all people were responsible for their own government and it was everyone's duty to become involved in the political process. To that goal, he founded the Grand Order of Pachyderms, a political awareness and education club that now has membership in 16 states.

(Reprinted with permission from Terry Ganey and the Columbia Star Tribune.)

## 2009 Pachyderm Awards during Biennial Conference

**Most Outstanding Club in Nation 2007**  
**Most Outstanding Club in Nation 2008**

Greater Houston, TX  
 Hamilton County, TN

### Membership Growth by percentage

Division I (100+)	<b>2007</b> -Hamilton County, TN	<b>2008</b> -St. Charles County, MO
Division II (51-99)	<b>2007</b> -Glacier Country, MT	<b>2008</b> -Alamo, TX
Division III (15-50)	<b>2007</b> -Chambers County, TX	<b>2008</b> -Southeast Missouri, MO

### Outstanding Website as of June 20, 2007

Texas Federation	Greater Houston
Missouri Federation	Platte County
Montana Federation	Five Valleys
Non-Federated	Sedgewick, KS
New Club	Las Vegas, NV

**Non-Federated for September 2009 Website**  
 Hamilton County, TN

**New Club for September 2009 Website**  
 Metro East of IL

### Recognition of Newsletters for 2007

Outstanding: "Trumpeter" of Five Valleys, MT. Best Newsletter  
 Greater Elkhart Club: Good promotion of Pachyderm Policies  
 St. Louis County : Good Bimonthly newsletter – electronic  
 San Angelo: Electronic, needs heading. Good for announcements and information

### Recognition of Newsletters for 2008

Outstanding: "Trumpeter" of Five Valleys, MT Best Newsletter  
 "Pondering Pachyderm"- Sedgewick County and Wichita Clubs for combining and promoting each.  
 "Columbia Pachyderm" – Columbia Club for being diverse and inclusive  
 Honorable Mention to "St. Louis County Pachyderm" weekly electronic bulletin

### Outstanding Club President in Federated:

**2007** - Tom McElwain, Glacier Country Pachyderm Club, Mt  
**2008** - Bob Shults, Greater Houston Pachyderm Club, TX

### Outstanding Club President in Non-Federated:

**2007** - Thomas Tomisek, Hamilton County Pachyderm Club, TN  
**2008** - Matthew Bryant, Hamilton County Pachyderm Club, TN



2009 Conference attendees included, from left, Luanne DeWitt, 1st Vice-President; Keynote Speaker Robin Smith; Ed Warren, President of Hamilton County Pachyderms; and John D. Wiemann, National Federation President.

**Quarterly newsletters  
 will be e-mailed to all  
 members.**

**Please be certain your  
 club secretary has your  
 updated e-mail  
 address!**

## Joe Briggs Receives Prestigious Founder's Award

Joe Briggs, Immediate Past President, received the highest honor bestowed by the National Federation during the Biennial Conference. Joe received the George W. Parker Founder's Award. He served as National President for 10 years as well as the Executive Director for half of his term.



Immediate Past President, serving on the new national board.

Joe also received the George W. Parker Founder's Award plaque during the annual Great Falls (Montana) Club dinner in November. National director Thelma Baker recognized Joe for his hard

work as the former National Pachyderm President.

This is only the second time for the Founder's Award. Pachyderm Founder George Parker was the first recipient.

He was responsible for bringing the National Pachyderms into the world of computers and created the first website. His leadership for the National Federation was outstanding. Joe will continue to contribute as the

### Qualifications for the George W. Parker Founder's Award

#### Award Level – State or National

Each State Federation may award one prestigious Founder's Award per year.

The National Federation may award one Founder's Award to any qualified Pachyderm member, either an at large member or a member from any club not located in a federated state.

**Eligibility:** Any Pachyderm member in good standing.

#### Qualification Criteria:

Primarily to recognize an individual's exceptional active service in the growth and leadership of the Pachyderm Organization at any and all levels. A recipient must have participated in the foundation of a club or State Federation and serve in a leadership position for a minimum of five years. Or, a recipient must have served in a leadership role within the Pachyderm organization for a minimum of 15 years. Such service would include the combination of all committee service, local, state, and national board service in the administration of a state or local federation such as an employee or Executive Director. Service need not be continuous.

**Process:** Download forms from the website, [www.pachyderms.org](http://www.pachyderms.org)

Obtain approval from Awards Committee then forward to National Office for approval.

You may want to start in October if award is needed for annual installation banquet later in the year.

## History of the George W. Parker Founder's Award



Joe Briggs, right, is only the second recipient of The George W. Parker Founder's Award.

The Pachyderm's tusk is a continuously growing set of upper incisor teeth. Just as men and women are usually right-handed or left-handed, the Pachyderm usually has an affinity for using one tusk more often than the other. The founder's tusk is intended to symbolize this dominant or master tusk.

Along with the trunk, the Pachyderm's tusk is a primary tool used constantly to strip bark from trees and to dig roots throughout the day. Pachyderms use their strong tusks to move branches and trees while clearing paths and marking trees to establish their territory. When necessary, they are used as a weapon in battle.

This award is given to remind members, that as Pachyderms, as Republicans, as American citizens, we must strip away the façade of irresponsible politics and politicians and dig until we get to the root of the problem.

The Founder's tusk is weathered and worn to symbolize constant use over many years and to remind us that when we get to the root of the problem, we move forward to solve it through leadership. We blaze a new trail, often clearing massive objects from our path. This tusk also serves as a reminder that we mark our new territory and hold on to our gains. It is a further reminder that we often have to fight to retain our territory, which is free government!

Finally, the Founder's tusk is made of gold to remind us of the importance and value of a tusk as a tool and that we must remain ever vigilant to guard our precious freedoms, ready to fight if necessary to defend them.

**Be sure to check out the exciting new changes to the website in February 2010!**  
[www.pachyderms.org](http://www.pachyderms.org)

# Club Profile

## Treasure Valley (Idaho) Club Gets to Work

By Kathy Heimann  
Editor

"Fasten your seat belt, John Bigham! We've got work to do!" And with focus and direction in her formidable arsenal, Treasure Valley (Idaho) Pachyderm Club President Redgie Bigham set out on her quest to "save America" as she terms it.

"If my country isn't right, my small company won't be right either," she says with her usual candor and enthusiasm, "I have put much time, effort and fight into the Treasure Valley Pachyderms in order to awaken local residents in the Treasure Valley as to what is going on in this country!"

Redgie says she and her husband, John, are California transplants who left because of liberalism, smog, traffic, and skyrocketing cost of living. After checking out the current Boise, the Bighams liked what they saw and decided to move back to the "red state" they lived in over ten years ago. In 2006 as they watched election results move from red to purple in race after race, Redgie recalls telling John, "We are no longer going to sit and scream at the TV. It's high time we do something besides sit on our bums!" He became her biggest supporter as she turned her supercharged personality toward making a difference for



The 2009 Treasure Valley "Oscar" was awarded for the "Lethal Weapon" recipe.

the citizens of Idaho. Putting feet to treasured advice from a friend in Arizona, she called the Republican Central Committee in Idaho to inquire about a precinct committeeman post. She received a nomination to fill a vacancy in December, 2006 and was elected in January 2007.

A stint with a county Republican women's club left Redgie looking for a forum where people could bond and share their hopes and dreams. Several of her friends thought the Boise area needed a Pachyderm Club. No one wanted to take the lead. "I thought, 'why me?' I even used the excuse that I didn't like the name *Pachyderm!* But John commented, 'Yeah, it's a weird name and we don't know what they are about. But at the same time, it means going alongside a national group, with national recognition who has affiliation with the Republican Party.'"

With a lot of work and a lot of dedication, the rest is history. Her fondness for the Club is obvious. The vibrant President stated, "I love the Pachyderms now! I love what they stand for... I am a Pachyderm!"

The Treasure Valley club meets 10 times a year in a dinner-meeting setting. Many couples use it as a date night. Members pay \$5, guests \$6.99 for dinner which includes salad, bread, entrée, dessert and coffee. Each attendee receives a bottle of water, courtesy of the month's water sponsors.

Meetings have a scheduled speaker, and offer candidates opportunities to speak to the group. In May, the club hosted the Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson, founder of Bond Action, Inc. An

African American pastor, writer, and radio show host, Rev. Peterson told a capacity crowd in straight terms about the evils we are currently dealing with regarding the current Administration, and that we 'do need change!'

The club's last 2009 meeting garnered 135 enthusiastic participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chili Cook-Off. With each meeting Redgie works hard at unique things to "generate electricity to pull them in. My aim is to bring America back to the Founding Father's view. They spent a lot of thought on crafting the Constitution and the Bill of Rights."

"People today don't give any thought to these things. They don't apply themselves. That's not the kind of person I want to elect to office. Last year, I told the group to get into gear as Public Servants. We have lost that. We need people to work hard for the ideals we stand for."

As new members and guests come in each month, Redgie reminds each one that she is personally going to rile up each one and thicken his or her skin. "As Pachyderms, we need to have a thick skin and do things right. Being offended is no longer acceptable. We have to get past that and stand up for what's right," she says.

As the Treasure Valley Pachyderms march into their second year, Redgie's enthusiasm is undimmed. "It has been an incredible journey. I would never trade it for anything in the world. It's so worth it. We have made a huge impact in Boise and in Idaho. We are making inroads

where no other conservatives have! I am willing to fight for the cause until my dying breath."

### Pachyderm Foundation Scholarship Information

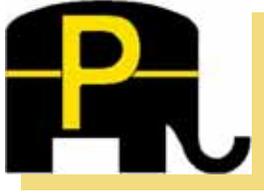
The Pachyderm Foundation was formed over 20 years ago by George W. Parker Sr. A strong believer in the necessity of developing young people for future political leaders, he founded the Foundation as a tool to accomplish this mission.

The Foundation was established as a 501(C) (3) private foundation to allow for a tax exempt status. This means that individuals can make tax deductible contributions to the Pachyderm Foundation. Annual e-postcard filings are made to the IRS. The Foundation files an annual registration with the State of Missouri.

The primary use of funds is to provide scholarships for students in pursuit of studies that would equip them to make some contribution to the political leadership needs of the nation. Such scholarships are provided without regard to race, religion or partisanship.

For 2010 the Foundation plans to award a \$200 match for one George W. Parker Boys State Scholarship and a \$200 match for one Lois Parker Girls' State scholarship. Call Jim Frazer, 573-896-5225 or email [mjfracz@gmail.com](mailto:mjfracz@gmail.com) for a scholarship application. Each club may submit one application. The Foundation will make the final selection.

Please consider making a donation to the scholarship fund.



*Published by:*  
*The National Federation of the  
Grand Order of Pachyderm  
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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)**

*Make a lasting difference in the political  
landscape, start a new Pachyderm Club this  
year. Or, add members to your already existing  
club. Contact us at 636.720.3450 or  
888.467.2249. At large membership in the  
Federation is available at a cost of \$25 per  
year for individuals who do not live near an  
existing Pachyderm Club. To join as an at  
large member, fill out this form and mail it  
along with your check for \$25 to:*

National Foundation of Pachyderms  
1555 Kisker Road, Suite 109  
St. Charles, MO 63304

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send Club Information

At large Membership