

**Washington County Republican Women**

★★★★★

DECEMBER 2008 St. George, Utah

[www.washingtoncountyrepublicanwomen.org](http://www.washingtoncountyrepublicanwomen.org)




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*President's Message*



“Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.”  
 ---unknown

It doesn't seem possible that another year is about to end. For me, December has always been a time to remember, a time to be with friends, a time to be thankful for all I have enjoyed during the past year and a time to think about the coming year.

My deepest thanks and appreciation to all of you and the tremendous year we have experienced. Although the November election was a “downer” for most of us, there is still much to be thankful for and to look forward to next year. I am so very grateful to the wonderful ladies who served with me in 2008 on the Board and as Committee Chairs and I'm

definitely getting geared up for a great 2009. Your WCRW Board is busy preparing goals, planning programs, budgets and activities for next year. At our January meeting, we will provide a review of 2008 and lay out plans for a successful 2009. There is much work to do!

In the meantime, let's celebrate the Holiday season at our December meeting, share our love of country and friendship, and be calm in our hearts.

Susan Recknagel, President




**December  
DOVE CENTER ITEMS**

***Socks, and/or slippers, in any size for women and children***

***Welcome to new associate member Dean Cox; Contributing members for 2009 Karen Vint, Cleo Atkin, and Ursula Reikes. Please see Gail Neumann to renew your membership for 2009.***

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 4, 2008**  
**11:30 AM**  
**BEST WESTERN ABBY INN**  
**1129 South Bluff – St. George**

**A Holiday Celebration in Song presented by the Pine View High School's Lieto Singers under the direction of Mr. Lister.**

*Luncheon Menu*

Italian Sausage Lasagna

No meal substitutions except for health issues

Cost \$13.00



**IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE**

The first Thursday in January is January 1, New Year's Day. Therefore, we will move our January meeting to the second Thursday, JANUARY 8, 2009.

**Minutes of the WCRW  
Monthly Membership Meeting  
November 6, 2008**

**President Susan Recknagel** called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., welcoming all members and guests. She offered special thanks for the Dove Center donations noting that items are especially needed and appreciated during hard times.

**Prayer:** Gloria Jones

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Wilma Courtney

**President Recknagel** thanked all of those who worked on the Get Out the Vote effort. Susan noted that many were disappointed in the election results. She suggested that everyone remember their republican beliefs and stand up for our ideals of "family, faith, country and the constitution". She further noted that we can no longer rely on mainstream media to be our watchdog.

**Business:**

- The proposed slate of officers for 2009 was introduced by Kay Hancock, Nominating Committee Chair. A call was made for any additional nominations, being none, the nominations were closed. The officers will be installed during the December meeting. The slate included, Susan Recknagel, President, Bonnie Harrington, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Gail Neumann, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Sandi Barrett, Treasurer, Etta Chaney Assistant Treasurer, Jeanne Hauze, Secretary, and Karen Vint, member at large

- Everyone was reminded to renew their WCRW membership with Gail Neumann.
- A call for assistance on the Calling Committee and the Communications Committee was made, as well as a need for members for the State Nominating Committee. Anyone interested see Susan Recknagel...

**Calendar of Events:**

- November 7-8 WCRW will be hosting the UFRW Conference
- November 12, WCRW will be making stockings the National Guard Christmas Celebration.
- Political Book Club will be meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara Library.
- The next meeting of the WCRW will be held December 4<sup>th</sup>. This will be a holiday program with music.
- November 18, the Republican Forum will host a meeting with Glen Spencer from the Boarder Patrol as guest speaker.

**Treasurers Report:** Sandi Barrett

**President Recknagel** introduced Jim Floore. Mr. Floore invited everyone to attend the Immigration Interim Committee meeting to be held at Dixie State College. Discussions will include the E-Verify Program, Community Perspectives, Impact on Community, and Public Comment. It was noted that Wilma Courtney serves on the Washington County Task Force.

**Introduction of Guest Speaker by Bonnie Harrington**

– Bonnie introduced Bette Ariel, accompanied by her husband Rich. Bonnie stated that Bette and Rich had resided in St. George for 25 years, and Bette is a past president of the WCRW. Bette is currently a lobbyist for Energy Solutions.

The presentation focused on "How To Get What You Want From Your Elected Officials". Bette explained the lobbying origination and process, and noted that when communicating with elected officials, "always tell the truth" and have written communications "short and easy to read and understand".

**President Recknagel** thanked Ms. Ariel for her presentation. Susan reiterated showing respect for the "office" of elected officials, and for those who care enough to serve our country. Susan stated that she was going to send a thank you to Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, for her dedication and sacrifice during the presidential election. Susan said she will obtain Governor Palin's address and distribute it so that others may write a letter of thanks if they desire to do so.

**Raffle: Coi Heath:** Coi announced that we sold \$66.00 in raffle tickets. Thanks to everyone for their support of this fund raising effort.

**Adjourn:** 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Hauze, Secretary pro tem

A Time for Thanksgiving  
by: Jules Crittenden  
12/01/2008, Volume 014, Issue 11

As the transition progresses and Barack Obama's inauguration draws closer, it's a good moment to mull the gifts George W. Bush has left for the incoming president. Bush has made the world a better place, and if Obama wants to do the same, he will take the good things Bush has done and move forward with them.

Early indicators are in fact positive. In foreign policy, possibly embarrassed by the eagerness with which the world's most vile regimes have welcomed his election, Obama is backing off his many promises to sit down with dictators. His antiwar base is already outraged that he may not make closing the hated "Crusader gulag" at Guantánamo Bay his first act of national liberation from the Bush era. He is even reportedly considering allowing the CIA some leeway in interrogation techniques.

In the critical field of war and foreign policy, there are quite a few things for which President-elect Obama can thank George Bush.

First and foremost, Saddam Hussein—a state sponsor of terrorism, a producer of weapons of mass destruction, a warmonger, and a genocidal maniac—is gone. The threat he posed was a nagging concern to Bill Clinton, but Clinton, lacking the political will or perhaps a good excuse, was content to consider Saddam trapped in a box. George W. Bush didn't have that luxury. After the September 11 attacks the stakes were raised and Bush understood the world could not tolerate the presence of someone like Saddam, who defied all international challenges and was actively subverting the restraints upon him.

For the last five years, Saddam has been viewed, in retrospect, as having been harmless, but that is only because he was deposed and captured by forces acting on George Bush's orders, then tried and hanged by the Iraqi people. The Baathist regime is no more.

Thank you, George W. Bush.

That difficult task, which required the terrible resolve to send men to their deaths and also required several painful readjustments of strategy and tactics, was done in time so that Obama should be able to fulfill his campaign promise of getting out of Iraq and ramping up in Afghanistan.

It will be possible for Obama to draw down the U.S. troop presence in Iraq without a precipitous, premature withdrawal that could plunge the region into genocidal chaos and leave Iran the de facto regional power. Iraq is peaceful enough now that a policy fudge by Obama there—unlike on the Guantánamo issue—is something his liberal backers are unlikely to hold against him.

With minor policy adjustments that no one will notice, much less begrudge, he can stay past his 16-month deadline and continue to build Iraq as a beacon of democracy and a U.S. ally

in the Middle East. Iraq's cabinet has approved a deal asking U.S. forces to stay until 2012, and Iraq's free parliament has been debating the matter in a highly spirited fashion—including fisticuffs—not unlike the early congressional proceedings of another nascent democracy.

Thank you, George W. Bush.

In the 1990s, anyone who told you Iraq would be a functioning, U.S.-allied democracy within a few short years would have been laughed out of the room. It has come at tremendous cost in both American and Iraqi lives. It is reasonable to assume, however, given the massive ethnic blood toll Saddam inflicted to maintain his regime, that establishing a Western-leaning Iraqi democracy has been accomplished with only a fraction of the violence that would have taken place absent U.S. intervention. Iran, while it meddles and wields deadly influence, has been kept at arm's length in the process, when Iran and Syria might both have been expected to descend on a post-Saddam Iraq. This highly dangerous region is stable—and has hope of remaining so.

The very concept of democracy in the region received a major boost when Arabs saw millions of Iraqis voting while under threat of death. This evolution is playing out in fits and starts in Lebanon and even the Palestinian territories, where voters have learned that the democratic process only *begins* with a vote. When Hamas chose to reward its backers with a bloodbath and international isolation, George Bush used that opportunity to draw an unprecedented gathering for former adversaries together to talk peace. Meanwhile, the very delicate Pakistan has advanced, with U.S. support, from military rule to elected civilian rule and remains an ally, if a problematic one, in America's war on Islamic extremism.

Thank you, George W. Bush.

George Bush has put a bow on his gift. The U.S. military's leading counterinsurgency warrior-philosopher, General David Petraeus, who resolved the initial mistakes of the Iraq occupation, now commands U.S. forces in the entire region, including Afghanistan. As some of the same voices that despaired in Iraq, declaring quagmires and demanding precipitous withdrawal, turn their despair to Afghanistan, Obama goes into battle without having to search for his Grant. He's already been found.

Thank you, George W. Bush.

The nuclear arms race in the Middle East was checked after 2003 when Iraq was cut out of it, Libya surrendered, and Iran momentarily halted its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Iran is back in the game, and apparently Syria as well, but Europe and the U.N. have come into line with George Bush on Iran, recognizing that ultimately someone must be willing to use force when all else fails. Bush has demonstrated to Obama that it is possible to negotiate from a position of strength with the international blessing that Obama craves.

Iran is perhaps the greatest challenge Obama will face. It requires him to be willing to take action on his own and not simply manage what was initiated by Bush. The prospect of a

nuclear-armed Islamic Republic of Iran is one that threatens to upset the pro-democracy, pro-American balance of power Bush has painstakingly created.

There is one thing Bush did not do for Obama, a key bit of unfinished business in a midwar transition. Bush failed to increase the number of U.S. ground forces in the immediate post-9/11 period when Congress would have signed a blank check. As a result, Obama will become commander in chief of an overstressed military at a time when there is still more fighting to be done. To establish himself as a wartime president and show that he is serious about America's obligations and vital interests in the world, Obama, among his first acts as president, must make an effort to increase the size of the Army and the Marine Corps.

George W. Bush did not solve all the problems of the world's most troubled and dangerous region. But, for all his shortcomings, he has moved them forward and established the United States as the dominant agent for change in the Middle East. Consider the mess Obama would be inheriting in the region if the Bush administration had just sat on its thumbs-Ahmadinejad's Iran with an even further advanced nuclear arms program, an aging Saddam installing one of his psychopathic sons in power or Iraq being torn apart in a genocidal nightmare. Imagine all the regimes of the region, unchastened and unimpressed by the U.S. exercise of power, looking for any weakness or advantage to exploit and quite possibly finding it in al Qaeda and its affiliates.

Bush has set conditions that could allow Obama, if he abandons the desire to be liked as the underlying principle of his foreign policy and sticks to the path the Bush administration has laid out, to preside over the greatest blossoming of liberal democracy and stability the Middle East has ever seen, and in all likelihood, to get the credit for it.

For all of this, Barack Obama owes George W. Bush a tremendous debt of gratitude.



## Cemetery Escort Duty

I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 4:55 pm. Five minutes to go before the cemetery gates are closed for the day. Full dress was hot in the August sun. Oklahoma summertime was as bad as ever--the heat and humidity at the same level--both too high.

I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 model Cadillac Deville, looked factory-new. It pulled into the parking lot at a snail's pace. An old woman got out so slowly I thought she was paralyzed; She had a cane and a sheaf of flowers--about four or five bunches as best I could tell.

I couldn't help myself. The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste: 'She's going to spend an hour, and for this old soldier, my hip hurts like hell and I'm ready to get out of here right now!' But for this day, my duty was to assist anyone coming in.

Kevin would lock the 'In' gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make it to Smokey's in time. I broke post attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight: middle-aged man with a small pot gut and half a limp, in marine full-dress uniform, which had lost its razor crease about thirty minutes after I began the watch at the cemetery.

I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint. 'Ma'am, may I assist you in any way?' She took long enough to answer. 'Yes, son. Can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days.'

'My pleasure, ma'am.' Well, it wasn't too much of a lie. She looked again. 'Marine, where were you stationed?' 'Vietnam, ma'am. Ground-pounder. '69 to '71.' She looked at me closer. 'Wounded in action, I see. Well done, marine. I'll be as quick as I can.'

I lied a little bigger: 'No hurry, ma'am.'

She smiled and winked at me. 'Son, I'm 85-years-old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last time I can do this. My name's Joanne Wieserman, and I've a few marines I'd like to see one more time.'

'Yes, ma'am. At your service.'

She headed for the World War I section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the flowers out of my arm and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC: France 1918.

She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek. She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943.

She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman, USMC, 1944. She paused for a second. 'Two more, son, and we'll be done.' I almost didn't say anything, but, 'Yes, ma'am. Take your time.'

She looked confused. 'Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way.' I pointed with my chin. 'That way, ma'am.' 'Oh!' she chuckled quietly. 'Son, me and old age ain't too friendly.'

She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman, USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman, USMC, 1970. She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out.

'OK, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home.' 'Yes, ma'am.' If I may ask, were those your kinfolk?'

She paused. Yes, Donald Davidson was my father, Stephen was my uncle, Stanley was my husband, Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all marines.' She stopped. Whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly and painfully.

I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double-timed it over to Kevin, waiting by the car. 'Get to the 'Out' gate quick. I have something I've got to do.' Kevin started to say something, but saw the look I gave him. He broke the rules to get us there down the service road. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet.

'Kevin, stand at attention next to the gatepost. Follow my lead.' I humped it across the drive to the other post.

When the Cadillac came puttering around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate, I called in my best gunny's voice: TehenHut! Present Haaaarms!' I have to hand it to Kevin; he never blinked an eye--full dress, attention and a salute that would make his DI proud.

She drove through that gate with two old worn-out soldiers giving her a send-off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing duty, honor and sacrifice.

I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac.

Instead of 'The End,' just think of 'Taps.'

Let's all keep those currently serving and those who have gone before in our thoughts. They are the reason for the many freedoms we enjoy. 'In God We Trust.'



June 13, 2008

To: Washington County Republican Women (WCRW),

I just want to thank the WCRW and all of its members for selecting me as the Iraq/Afghanistan scholarship recipient. I'm once again extremely grateful for the support the WCRW has given my family and I. We cherish the American flag that the WCRW gave me shortly after the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> returned home from Iraq. It's organizations like the WCRW that make Dixie such a great place to live.

I've been married for nearly five years and have two children, Savannah (3) and Bray (9 months). I'm currently enrolled in the Dixie State College medical radiography program. After completing the program I plan to continue my education and become specialized in a modality, i.e. MRI, CT, or nuclear medicine.

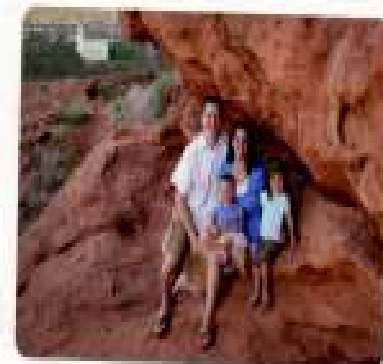
This scholarship comes at a perfect time for my family. During the fall semester I'm required to work 8 clinical hours 4 days a week and attend class. The demands of the program will make it difficult for me to work more than part time.

Thank you again for your support of my family and I, and for all the great things the WCRW and its members do in our community.

Sincerely,

Peter Hirachi and Family

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hirachi'.



**On November 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>, the WCRW hosted the Utah Federation of Republican Women. The event began Friday evening with a reception, hosted by our local elected officials**

Rep. Dave Clark



Gloria Jones was the lucky winner of the attendance drawing – a beautiful quilt made by Wilma Clark and Susan Recknagel

During the conference on Saturday, we were privileged to hear Adjutant General Tarbet of the Utah National Guard speak. During his presentation he showed slides and videos of the Utah National Guardsmen serving in Afghanistan, and well as soldier home coming events He was presented with the 222<sup>nd</sup> poster by Wilma Courtney and Susan Recknagel.



WCRW met together to make stockings for 222<sup>nd</sup> National Guard troops and their children.



### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

once a month for about two hours and works via email to exchange research and information. With the Holidays approaching, the Legislative Committee is also setting their sights a little farther into the future. The committee is focusing on issues to follow before and during the 2009 Utah State Legislative session. At this point several primary issues have been identified. The first is the 2008 and possible 2009 immigration legislation or general legislative follow-up. The same is the case for the health care reform legislation sponsored by Dave Clark and passed during the 2008 session. There is also a concern developing regarding possible ethics legislation for the Utah House and Senate. Additional potential new legislative items the committee will watch for are both energy and water issues pertinent to the state and to Washington County in particular. The committee meets once a month, and is always looking for new members. Diane Schlough, Chairperson

The following is a copy of the letter sent to Governor Palin, by Susan Recknagel on behalf of the WCRW,



November 14, 2008

Dear Governor Palin,

Washington County (Utah) Republican Women would like to thank you for the outstanding representation of women and of our conservative values. We sincerely appreciate the personal sacrifice you and your family made during the election campaign. Your dedication to serving this country and your honesty serve as examples for all of us.

We hope to see a great deal more of you on the political front in the future. Conservatives need to take a stand now and re-invigorate our beliefs. We need strong leaders, such as you, to preserve our values of faith, family, country and Constitution.

Respectfully and with warmest regard,

Washington County Republican Women



State flower of Alaska

*A special thanks to each of you who contribute to the WCRW Newsletter. You make my job easy and fun.*

*Jeanne Hauze, Editor*



Sharing with those less fortunate is easier and more rewarding than dieting!



I can't believe I was doing it wrong all these years

