

## Annual Awards



Faith Loudon  
Republican Woman 2010



Bonnie Luna  
Grassroots Activist 2010



St. Mary's County of the year 2010



Somerset County  
Voter Registration award



Fiona Moodier Republican Youth 2010

## What happened at the Spring Convention?

By: First Vice Chairman Diana Waterman

For as long as anyone can remember, the members of the Maryland Republican party have been "fighting" over how we vote. At our last convention (May 2011), we finally approved an amendment to our bylaws that should put an end to that seemingly never-ending debate! (Emphasis on "should.")

But there appears to be some confusion as to what exactly was approved at our Spring Convention – from those that heard about it second or third hand, and even from those who were there.

A little history: a committee of over 30 members from across the state (counties large, small, and in between) met and created a revised set of Bylaws – covering not only voting but also fixing some other problems and adding some new items. For the record, the committee met over a three month period and tried to create a comprehensive Update that would address many issues without (hopefully) causing too much controversy. To put it mildly, that was not the outcome. The proposed Voting Method was probably the most volatile of the recommendations (as the debate during convention showed), however, several other areas were also very contentious.

Back to convention. The Parliamentary Procedures were flying back and forth with gusto. We spent about 45 minutes on reports, while waiting for the Credentials Report. Once approved, we were ready for Rules. As was normal, we spent the next hour debating the Rules, which were eventually passed with a few votes to spare. Then onto the Report from the Bylaws Committee. (Time Check: about an hour left to debate the Bylaws Amendments) We made it though Item 1 – mostly housekeeping stuff but it also included the following:

- Change terms of office to two years for Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretary, and Treasurer (starting in 2014)
- Allows for electronic notification of meetings for Exec Committee and the first meeting of Chairman following Gubernatorial elections
- Changes the date requirements of the first organizational meeting of the newly elected County Committee following the Gubernatorial Primary
- Changes date the annual budget is required to be given to chairman

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### MDGOP Insider

An electronic newsletter published quarterly by the:  
Maryland Republican Party  
15 West Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Phone: 410-263-2125

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hat happened at Spring Convention?  
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- Changes procedure for amending bylaws to submission to a Bylaws Committee (instead of to the Secretary), and fixing dates to convention, not arbitrary dates
- Requires State Party to inform a county of any change in the allowed number of Committee members

Next up, through suspension of the Rules, Voting (with very little time left). At this point, for the casual observer, things may have gotten a little confusing. When the dust settled, a new voting method had passed by more than the required 2/3 majority.

And that's all that passed! There was no change in the Political Activity of any members, no change in the Voting status of any members of the Executive Committee, no creation of any new standing committees, including Judicial, Platform, Events, or any other. (there will have to be a Bylaws Committee created as an ad hoc committee since Bylaws amendments must be submitted to a Bylaws committee). We also did not get to the Rule 11 amendment (submitted by Michael Swartz and Heather Olson).

There are many things that still need to be addressed and others that various individuals or groups would like to see addressed. I hope that the Chairman will create a new committee tasked with continuing the process started by the first committee. Stay tuned for more information.



Congressman Andy Harris gives Keynote address at the MD GOP annual awards luncheon

## Teachers contribute 2% to close budget hole

by: Donna Sudbrook, Howard County

I heard about it on the first day of Staff Appreciation Week (May 2), the week when parents in many schools do special things for their classroom teachers, principals, and all of the staff that work with their children at school. Lunches, breakfasts, snack carts, dessert trays, themed decorations, games with prizes, drawings, flower sales, chocolate treats, special themed handwritten thank you notes from students, the creativity is endless as parents, PTA volunteers and Room Moms give generously of their time and donations to support and thank the people who have such a huge impact on their children.

What I heard was that all of the teachers across the state of Maryland will be required to contribute an additional 2% of their pay, for a total of 7%, toward their pensions. Unfortunately, for the first three years (until 2014) the additional 2% will not go into their pension fund, it will simply go into the State's General Fund in order to balance the State's budget. The pension fund will not be made more solvent with these contributions, they are simply an across the board 2% pay cut for all teachers.

As I sat next to a teacher who asked another PTA member for support on this issue, I was struck by the sadness and the struggle as good teachers work hard to help our children in public schools and are discouraged by the way that things are done in Annapolis. All of our Staff Appreciation efforts seem less "appreciative" as some teachers, especially the younger ones on the lower rungs of the pay scale, will need time to reexamine their budgets and their desires to continue in a Maryland public school system where more and more of their pay is taken from them in place of promises that may not be kept.



## Voting Explained

By: David Parker, Rules Committee Chairman

MDGOP finally has a voting method incorporated as a part of their Bylaws. This fall, for the first time in a long time, a lengthy amount of time should not need to be spent approving a Voting Method as a part of the Rules!

A little history is in order for those of you who are unfamiliar with this issue. Since the MDGOP Bylaws have not stated a voting method for Party business, this has been addressed by the Rules for the Convention. Dating back to the 90's (and probably well before that), there has been some discord between the more populated counties and the smaller populated counties. It reached the point that we would spend most of our time debating how we should vote, as opposed to conducting other business. So, at our 2010 Fall Convention, the State Party unanimously resolved that we had had enough and wanted a committee created to revise the Bylaws.

In a nutshell, the previous voting methodology was based purely on population. A county's vote was based on the percentage of Registered Republicans in their county divided by the Total Number of Registered Republicans in the State. The end result: the larger counties have a much larger percentage of the total vote than the smaller counties have. This led to the smaller counties feeling completely marginalized. The goal of the committee was to create a methodology that would recognize the higher number of individual voters in the larger counties, while acknowledging the successes of the smaller counties (which tend to have Republican majorities). This is the result:

We start with 500 total base votes. Fifty percent (50%) of these are distributed equally among the 24 jurisdictions (23 counties plus Baltimore City). Thirty percent (30%) are distributed proportionally based upon the number of votes received in their county for the most recent top of the ticket race. And the remaining twenty percent (20%) are distributed proportionally based up the number of Registered Republicans in the county (based upon the most recent data available). This makes up a county's base vote (50% of the base vote is determined by population in the county – from registered Republicans and from all voters voting in a particular race. This

insures that the more populous counties still have the larger share of the vote.)

Using the base vote, a county can increase their total base vote by up to thirty percent (30%), based on performance. A county can add an additional ten percent (10%) each for accomplishing three additional benchmarks: having more Republicans registered in their county than Democrats, winning the most recent top of the ticket race, and electing majority control of their county (or city) government.

While these benchmarks are more easily attained in the smaller counties, this is something all counties (and even Baltimore City) should be working towards. Our primary goal as members of the MDGOP is to elect more Republicans. Increasing the number of registered Republicans, turning out the vote for the top of the ticket, and electing Republicans to all offices are what we're supposed to do. And please remember, these performance votes are calculated on the county's base vote which is calculated on population for the most part. Therefore, even if a smaller county can add 30% more to its vote, it will never outvote the more populous counties.

This voting scheme is not perfect. Some people feel it punishes the large, Democrat controlled counties. Others feel the smaller, more Republican counties are not recognized enough for their accomplishments. The Bylaws Committee felt that it was a good compromise. And clearly, more than a two-thirds majority of the State Party agreed. Well, at least they all agreed that we needed to codify something into our Bylaws and this was, at the very least, an acceptable plan. Will it need to be tweaked in the future? Probably. Will some people always be whatever is decided? Definitely. But thankfully, there is finally a voting methodology incorporated into our State Bylaws. Now, let's get to business registering those voters, recruiting and training those candidates, and win those elections!

## A Fresh Look at Boring, Tired, Old Voter Registration (VR)

by: Jay Lounsbury

Hello! I have the honor and privilege of serving as Voter Registration (VR) Chair for the Calvert County GOP. Let me describe two principles that have served us well in the past year. How well? Since March 2010, Calvert Democrats have lost net 565 voters while the GOP has gained 255 (Independents gained 164). In 14 months, we've closed the gap from 1339 to 519 and, at this rate, will take the lead in Feb. 2012.

You may already be applying these ideas, perhaps with even greater success than Calvert - good for you. If not, take a look.

First, get everyone - volunteers, office holders, candidates, Central Committee - to buy into the importance of VR as a team effort. For years, I have taken the raw VR numbers from the Election Board and put them into a table showing the numbers by party and precinct. AND percentages. I throw in a little analysis and commentary. Sometimes peppy, sometimes scolding, sometimes homespun, sometimes blue sky speculative. Although monthly changes are often tiny, there's something about seeing trends over time; something about seeing individual or group efforts reflected in a chart.

I don't own Calvert Republican VR - neither should you. Be alert and sensitive to what makes the folks in your county GOP tick and think of ways to jujitsu that to your VR efforts.

Second, pardon the cliché, but think outside the box. Your head was prolly nodding in agreement with the title of this article - VR too often is a boring, tired, old drudgery. The solution is to 1) be realistic in your expectations, and 2) try something new.

For example, I get home purchase data for Calvert from the Maryland Dept. of Assessment and Taxation. I cross-check names of buyers against my VR database to see who is not registered to vote. After eliminating realtors, speculators, and nonresident landlords, we periodically send these people a welcome letter, listing specific reasons they should register Republican and giving complete contact and event info.

Another example: with the Dems, we hold VR events at our high schools and college campus. Also, Calvert GOP leaders have gotten the message that a few VR forms are always good to have handy. And we're trying to find good locations for drive up registration.

Many hard-working Calvert Republicans are part of the VR Team. By the same token, I'd welcome you to share your ideas, comments, and questions to take this statewide. You can email me at [jaylounsbury@comcast.net/](mailto:jaylounsbury@comcast.net/)

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### Allegany County GOP Provides Lunches, cribs for children

By Lisa Griffith

The Allegany County Republican Women recently donated a baby crib to the local Family Crisis Resource Center. The center helps victims of domestic violence and their children. Sara Beth James, Executive Director was very thankful as all cribs at the center needed to be replaced. The Center is located in Cumberland.

The Allegany County Republican Women recently donated \$500 to the Summer Lunchbox Program. This program delivers lunches to children in the summer at local playgrounds. The program was started as a way of helping children to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Some of the Republican Women in the club have even asked to volunteer to help prepare and deliver the lunches this year.

The Allegany County Lincoln Day Dinner will be on Friday June 24 at the Frostburg Moose. Cocktails will be at 6PM. Tickets are \$25 and available by calling 301-707-0480 or 240-727-6654.




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Visit: [MDGOP.org](http://MDGOP.org) for current information 24/7

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The Charles County Republican Central Committee  
Announces

Our 2011 Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

Friday, 10 June 2011

6:30 PM Cocktails, 7:30-10:00 PM Dinner & Program

Middleton Hall  
4045 Renner Road, Waldorf, Md. 20602



Featured Guest Speaker

**Charles Lollar**

Maryland Director, Americans for Prosperity



Event attendees welcomed (in special video presentation) by

**Congressman Allen West (FL-22)**

Tickets

\$50 per person for dinner, cash bar

(Advance purchase online at *CharlesCountyGOP.org*, reservations by 8  
June 2011)

\$60 per person at the door

For more information call 301.893.0146

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Randy DePew, Treasurer