

# Republican Club of Lakeland

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The fate of good men [& women] who refuse to become involved in politics is to be ruled by evil men.

*Edmund Burke*

*Dear Republican Club Members,*

**Subject:** *President's Letter – We The People*

The Republican Club of Lakeland had a very successful 2009 Year. Some of the highlights were speakers the club obtained like the electrifying Marco Rubio, candidate for U. S. Senate. One hundred-ninety persons were in attendance for that meeting. The Club additionally was very fortunate to have Florida's Governor Charlie Crist as a speaker, who is also running for U. S. Senate. Furthermore, we had two authors of books, lecturers that speak nationally and an attorney that has practiced before the U. S. Supreme Court and other admirable speakers and elected officials. These speakers helped to educate, instruct and motivate us on the issues, principles and concepts that we needed to be aware of and apply to government.

The Republican Club of Lakeland did not stop with just exceptional speakers. The Club worked and was active with numerous organizations, other Republican Clubs, College's, Gun Show, A Women's Choice organization, the Sheriffs Youth Ranches, schools, candidates, elected officials, etc. By the 2009 year-end the Club's membership has grown to an outstanding 139 members.

Speaking on the negative, the area that we were lacking most was with our newsletter. We only had two newsletters for the whole year. This was a poor performance in that arena, partially for the members that are not able to attend meetings and the newsletter is their sole source of communication with the club. I must state this action was a conscious decision but not a desirable one. That decision was based upon setting a list of priorities that I viewed as best for achieving and promoting the overall mission of the club. To attain some of the speakers and/or events the club was involved with it was necessary to put in a substantial amount of time and effort for those meetings or outreaches. Therefore, restricting time and energy elsewhere. I believe using this priority list has demonstrated to be the best action with the time and resources available for the *overall objective of the club*, which is our aim. An example of this objective is the club has had an increase in membership and attendance at its meetings. The club has also had a much larger impact on the local citizens to present basic republican views and candidates. This year 2010 the newsletters will take a higher priority.

With the year 2010 and the numerous elections of positions that are to be filled I will stay less with educational topics and more with the candidates and their views, since they will be the ones that we will be electing.

Let me present a little of what will be in-store for our meetings in 2010. For example, the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting the club will have as its speaker Florida's Lt. Governor Jeff

Kottkamp. This should be an exciting meeting and one you will want to attend. The Lt. Governor is also a candidate in the Attorney General race. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> the club will have one of its few strictly educational meetings on republican principles, issues and goals we must achieve. Former State Representative Don Brown “2004 Legislator of the Year” will be traveling *overnight* to be able to speak to the Club. These are two meetings I would mark in your calendar and attend if at all possible.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> the club will have its first meeting of the 2010 year. The speakers will be Pat Patterson candidate for Florida’s Chief Financial Officer and Melony Bell candidate for County Commission District 2. *Not only will this lunch meeting at Cleveland Heights Golf Club be informative, it will not be boring!* Please bring a friend to the meeting!

We have much to look forward too, and much to do in this 2010 election year! I hope you have enjoyed being part of this team – The Republican Club of Lakeland.

“Government, like clocks, go from the motion men give them; and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments. Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad...”

*William Penn*

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be. [We must] educate and inform the whole mass of *the people*, they are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.”

*Thomas Jefferson*

“Now more than ever before, *the people* are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because *the people* tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because *the people* demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature....”

*James A. Garfield – 20<sup>th</sup> President*

“if rulers are bad men, it is generally the fault of *the people*.”

*Noah Webster “America’s Schoolmaster”. Webster spoke 28 languages fluently.*

“One single object...[will merit] the endless gratitude of the society: that of restraining the judges from usurping legislation.”

*Thomas Jefferson, March 25, 1825*

Sincerely,

*Ron Parks*

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