

From the Chairman, August 2009:

*"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical"...Thomas Jefferson*

Hello my fellow conservatives and Republicans.

I just returned from my little European sojourn on Monday afternoon, only to learn that I missed one of the best 9th District GOP summer picnics in anyone's memory. The venue, at the Coosawattee River Resorts Fish Trap Park, was perfect for an afternoons riparian entertainment provided by Ellijay Mayor Al Hoyle's excellent band, not to mention the many brief speeches delivered with passion and eloquence by hopeful Republican candidates for public office. Bar-B-Que was the usual excellent product delivered by Walkers Restaurant and caterer service which included as a desert his famous fried apple pies.

Over 400 people attended this event putting Gilmer County's GOP in a very positive spotlight indeed and I want to again recognize the hard work and Yeoman effort that the Party's executive board put into making this effort the success it was.

Our August meeting was attended by thirty republicans. Our first schedule speaker was Billy Kirkland representing the *Center for an Educated Georgia*, a conservative group dedicated to improving Georgia's pre-college education system through free choice and vouchers. Georgia, he stated, consistently ranks Between 47th and 49th in the national scale of competent education whereas, he said Georgia's two leading institutions of higher education rank in the top twenty school of all universities nationally. His question was why this disparity? His answer was "free choice." Further information on this important issue their web site is: **[www.educatedgeorgia.org](http://www.educatedgeorgia.org)**.

Our next speaker was former State Senator Bill Steven's come to state his case as to why he should be sent to the US Congress to replace retiring Congressman, Nathan Deal. Deal, it will be known is leaving Congress to attempt to become Georgia's next Governor keeping the state in Republican hands. Senator Steven's outlined to the group his political history in Georgia politics and, he emphasized that he supports the Fair Tax and is not in arrears on his personal taxes.

As Republicans, we have a plethora of quality choices in all of our candidates seeking State and Federal offices. The choices are many and I would encourage all party members to attend our monthly meetings and listen to these candidates. It's to your benefit, and ours as a nation, to be politically informed to be able to make the right choices in the voting booth. Our nation cannot stand another Obama no matter what office he holds.

The evening concluded with the dynamic remarks of former 6-term Congressman from Ohio, Mr. Bob McEwen, younger brother of our own Nancy Layman, proprietor and owner of Zyvax Corporation, a company that specializes in commercial mold release products. Think "Spam" on a big scale. Mr. McEwen, compared and contrasted freedom and slavery, how each works and why America has long been the premier producer of wealth and high living standards in the entire world. As an example, he compared the US State of Arkansas, population about 3 million, with the country of Pakistan, population, 30 million or so. The Gross national Product Arkansas alone exceed that of Pakistan's by millions and millions of dollars. Other examples were also made but his message was clear. Get government out of the way, let small business and entrepreneurs have a free rein at growing their business and watch everyone profit resulting in a higher living standard. Our freedoms, he said are slowly being taking away from us, one at a time, piecemeal, until soon, we too will be slaves to government.

Finally, I highly recommend a visit to Gilmer County's newest online newspaper, [WWW.gilmernews.net](http://WWW.gilmernews.net), simply called Gilmer News. It is produced by Max Holstein and if you desire to contribute, like I do, he can be reached at [editor@gilmernews.net](mailto:editor@gilmernews.net).

George McClellan, Chairman, Gilmer Co. GOP