



The New York Young Republican Club Record

Letter from the Publications Chairman:



First and foremost, welcome to this historic evening at the New York Young Republican Club 111th Annual Gala. On behalf of myself and the rest of our Board, thank you for coming.

As you may have noticed, the number “one” is prevalent this evening not only in the title of this Gala, but as a concept for the spirit of this event. I have assigned a theme to each “one” for tonight’s 111th celebration.

The first theme is coincidentally the concept of “being first.” The New York Young Republican Club is America’s oldest young Republican organization, dating back to our earliest legacy club, the New York Young Men’s Republican Union in 1856, where our predecessors helped elect America’s first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, perhaps the most important president our nation has ever had. The NYYRC is the first, and we are the best. No other young organization in this country, Republican or Democrat, achieves what this Club has accomplished.

The second theme is “America First.” You are sitting here tonight because you believe the United States of America is the greatest country on Earth. Our success and our freedoms, however, cannot extend beyond our own people. We believe that a nation without borders is no nation at all; we believe that taxpayer money belongs to Americans and not to the Ukraine; we believe that the global establishment, radical leftists, and internationalist interests are the true enemy; we believe that people decide what’s best for themselves through free will invested in them by God. We retain a nationalistic pride that, outside this room, is under constant assault by paradigms of self-hatred.

Lastly, three, “unity.” No one in this room permits a single label to define himself or herself. Despite individual differences, we remain united through one common value: an unwavering patriotism for this country. For as it says on our Great Seal, *E pluribus unum, Out of Many, One*. Tonight, we define ourselves with a singular word: REPUBLICAN, and we stand in solidarity against those interests that seek our destruction.

God bless each and every one of you tonight, God bless the New York Young Republican Club, and God bless America!

Nicholas T. Rafael Jr.
Publications Chairman
New York Young Republican Club

Speakers



President Donald J. Trump

Donald J. Trump is a highly successful businessman, real estate mogul, television star, author, and the 45th President of the United States.

As Chairman of The Trump Organization, President Trump transformed the New York City skyline building world-renowned skyscrapers and developing state-of-the-art restorations. His iconic portfolio of global holdings includes towers throughout the world, championship golf courses, ultra-luxury clubs, and sprawling vineyards.

Becoming the nation's first president without a military or political background, President Trump put America First for four years, delivering prosperity, security, and peace for the forgotten men and women of our Country.

Representative Matthew L. Gaetz

Matt Gaetz, a member of the 118th Congress, is currently serving his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. His work in Congress focuses on national security, veterans' affairs, and adherence to constitutional principles.

Matt was born in Hollywood, Florida, to Don and Vicky Gaetz and grew up in Northwest Florida. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Matt is married to Ginger Gaetz and has one son, Nestor, whom he has described raising as "the most rewarding thing I've done in my life."



Senator Roger W. Marshall, M.D.

Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. is a proven conservative and political outsider from Great Bend, Kansas. After serving as a physician for over 25 years, Doctor Marshall came to Washington to help cure the broken and corrupt D.C. swamp. He served four years in the U.S. House of Representatives, ran for the U.S. Senate in 2020, and won with a resounding victory.

Today, he's nationally recognized as one of the most conservative Republicans in the Senate. Senator Marshall has been a fierce fighter against the Biden Crime Family, rooting out corruption and this administration's consistent failures. Senator Marshall has been a loyal supporter of President Donald Trump and will continue to defend his vision for our nation that puts America FIRST.

Club Awards

The **Nelson A. Rockefeller Award** is presented to a member of the community at large who, in the spirit of the former Club member, New York Governor, and the United States Vice President, goes to great lengths to assist the New York Young Republican Club in fulfilling its mission. Nelson A. Rockefeller (1908-1979) served as Governor of New York State from 1959 to 1973 and Vice President of the United States from 1974 to 1977. Throughout his distinguished career, “Rocky”, as Club members affectionately referred to him, aided the Club in innumerable ways. Only a person of such generosity may fittingly receive this award.

The **John Marshall Harlan II Award** is presented to a member of the community at large who goes to great lengths to assist the Club in fulfilling its mission. John Marshall Harlan II (1899-1971) was a former member of the Club and an American lawyer and jurist who served as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1955 to 1971. Harlan is often characterized as a member of the conservative wing of the Warren Court. He advocated a limited role for the judiciary, remarking that the Supreme Court should not be considered “a general haven for reform movements.” In general, Harlan adhered more closely to precedent and was more reluctant to overturn legislation than many of his colleagues on the Court. He strongly disagreed with the doctrine of incorporation, which held that the provisions of the federal Bill of Rights applied to the state governments. At the same time, he advocated a broad interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment’s Due Process Clause, arguing that it protected a wide range of rights not expressly mentioned in the United States Constitution. Harlan is sometimes called the “great dissenter” of the Warren Court and has been described as one of the most influential Supreme Court justices of the twentieth century.

The **Herbert Brownell Jr. Award** goes to a Club alumnus or Associate Member that best embodies the spirit of Herbert Brownell Jr. (1904-1996). Brownell served as a member of the New York Assembly for five years, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, manager of Governor Thomas E. Dewey’s Presidential Campaign, and United States Attorney General under President Eisenhower for seven years. His example of service to both country and party has served as a standard to which we all aspire. Fittingly, this award winner must demonstrate a lifetime of achievement and dedication to both nation and party.

Since 1962, the **Stanley M. Isaacs Award** has been presented to a non-board Club member who has made the most important contributions to the Club in the last year in the opinion of the Board of Governors. Stanley M. Isaacs (1882-1962), who served as Manhattan Borough President from 1938-1941, and Minority Leader of the City Council at the time of his death, made a lifetime commitment to supporting the Club and its endeavors. It is this legacy of service to the Club that future award recipients shall be measured against.

Since 1947, the **Philip J. McCook Award** (previously known as the Civic Service Award, the War Memorial Award, and the New York Young Republican Club Award) has been given to a person in the community at large that best embodies the spirit and mission of the New York Young Republican Club, who exemplifies the fundamental ideals of Republicanism, such as liberty and individual responsibility, and who has demonstrated a dedication and service to both the Republican Party and society. Philip J. McCook (1873-1963) was one of the Club’s original 32 founders and its first president, serving from 1911 to 1914. In 1919 he was elected to the Supreme Court in New York. In 1930 he was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to preside over the Ewald Healy job-buying inquiry, which eventually led to the famed Seabury investigation and a public airing of the corruption in Tammany politics in the Democratic party in New York City. Judge McCook came from a family with a reputation for bravery in combat. A family often called the “fighting McCooks.” His family had 15 men wearing Union Army uniform during the Civil War, and Judge McCook had the unusual distinction of having served in the U.S. Army in three wars. He was an infantry corporal in the Spanish-American War, an infantry major in World War I, and a colonel in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps in World War II. He was wounded during World War I at the Meuse and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The **Frederic René Coudert Jr. Award** goes to an individual that best embodies the conservative spirit of Frederic René Coudert Jr. (1898-1972). Coudert was a member of the New York State Senate from 1939 to 1946, sitting in the 162nd, 163rd, 164th, and 165th New York State Legislatures. Between 1940 and 1942, he helped lead the Rapp-Coudert Committee, which sought to identify the extent of communist influence in the public education system of the state of New York. Its inquiries led to the dismissal of more than 40 instructors and staff members at the City College of New York. He was elected as a Republican to the 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, and 85th United States Congresses, holding office from January 3, 1947, to January 3, 1959. Coudert was an outspoken conservative and endorsed William F. Buckley’s 1965 Conservative campaign for the New York City mayoralty over liberal Republican Congressman and fellow New York Young Republican Club alumnus John Lindsay.

The **Richard M. Nixon Award** is given to a citizen who exemplifies the fundamental ideals of Americanism. Richard M. Nixon (January 9, 1913 – April 22, 1994) was the 37th President of the United States, serving from 1969 to 1974 and thereby obtaining the highest political rank of any New York Young Republican Club alumnus. Earlier in his political career, Nixon served as a Representative and Senator from California and as the 36th Vice President of the United States from 1953 to 1961 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Nixon’s five years in the White House saw the reduction of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam Conflict, détente with the Soviet Union and China, the first manned Moon landings, and the ratification of the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Between his service as Vice President and President, Nixon moved to New York City, where he joined the New York Young Republican Club. The Club supported Nixon’s 1968 presidential campaign; it created and sold collectible silver and bronze coins featuring profiles of his and Spiro T. Agnew’s faces to raise funds used to support his campaign. Nixon went on to appoint Club members to positions in the federal government, including Kenneth B. Keating as United States Ambassador to Israel, Russell E. Train as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Rita E. Hauser as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Club awarded Richard M. Nixon its Philip J. McCook Award in 1960.

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Member Spotlights

Jatnna Bobadilla

Born in the Dominican Republic, Jatnna immigrated to the United States with her family as a child and has always resided in NYC. Jatnna's profound love of God, family, and Country was instilled at a young age by her parents. One of her fondest memories was when she and her classmates proudly recited the Pledge of Allegiance each morning. This experience was the foundation from which Jatnna felt proud to be an American. Raised in a devout, conservative home, the principles of faith, family, and patriotism became the cornerstone of her Republican values.

She obtained her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she was inducted into the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. She is also a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Jatnna has a career in investigations, compliance, oversight, and project management. After working in the private sector, she began her career working for NYC. Most of that time has been with the Office of the Inspector General for NYC Health + Hospitals, the largest public health benefit corporation in the Country. She was part of a team of individuals who conducted oversight over the NYC Health + Hospital system and Correctional Health Services.

During the height of the COVID pandemic, Jatnna was assigned to work at Health + Hospitals facilities, assisting in the distribution of personal protective equipment. In 2021, her faith was tested as she filed a request for religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine. In 2022, she was wrongfully terminated and suffered blatant discrimination for her religious beliefs. She has pending litigation against NYC Health + Hospitals and NYC Mayor Eric Adams.

As a result of her wrongful termination, Jatnna has become more politically involved in Republican affairs. She is an active member of the New York Young Republican Club and can be found at many conservative events in the tri-state area. Jatnna's story is one of many that stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of the American dream.



Nate Henderson



Nate Henderson was born in the ancient city of Safed, Israel, and grew up in the rural and historic Hudson Valley. Witnessing the earth-shattering events of 9/11, Nate answered the call to service at the age of 17, when he commenced on a two-decade journey in the United States Army.

Throughout Nate's career, he saw several overseas combat tours and transitioned his career from enlisted service to receiving a commission as an engineer officer. Nate's extensive travels took him around the world, from the enchanting shores of Hawaii to the border counties of Arizona to the rolling mountains of Korea and through international conflicts spanning the Middle East and West Asia during the Global War on Terror. Through these travels, Nate demonstrated his unwavering dedication to his country and unparalleled expertise in his field.

While stationed overseas on his last tour, Nate bore witness to the seismic shifts of the 2020 election, which set him on a new path. Channeling his leadership, experience, and love for country, Nate endeavored to enter the precarious world of politics. He founded Sullivan's Legacy, a committee created for the purpose of upholding the Constitution, standing true against corrupt politicians, and tackling challenges beyond the capacity of local elected officials.

Nate is the modern-day embodiment of a Constitutionalist and an unapologetic fighter against the forces of Communism and Neo-Marxism. As he looks ahead, he envisions a future wherein his steadfast leadership inspires a new generation of conservatives, continuing to stand for the principles that have shaped the core of our nation. His journey, marked by sacrifice and service, is a beacon of hope and an enduring testament to the spirit of liberty and the American dream.

2023: A Look Back

By Aldo J. Solares, Club Historian

The History Committee of the New York Young Republican Club proudly announces some of its most notable accomplishments of 2023.

This year, the Committee expanded its trivia events to cover various subjects, such as the history of United States Presidents and the wars our brave veterans fought, from the Civil War to the Gulf War.

We are pleased to report Committee Member and Club Sergeant-at-Arms Troy M. Olson co-authored a book with Club President Gavin Wax. The publication, *The Emerging Populist Majority*, delves into American political and electoral history, turning conventional wisdom on its head before diving into contemporary populist movements and making a case for trend lines pointing to a populist future.

One of our most intriguing discoveries this year pertains to one of the Club's legacy clubs, the Young Men's Republican Union. The Union was instrumental in organizing the march led by the Wide Awakes to rally support for the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. This historical example demonstrates the significant impact that young Republicans can have when they collaborate. We hope this will inspire young Republicans throughout the United States to similarly rally the grassroots to bolster support for President Donald J. Trump in his 2024 reelection campaign.

We also learned that the Young Men's Republican Union hosted the brother of General William T. Sherman—Senator John Sherman of Ohio, for a speech in 1860. In this speech, he foreshadowed the Civil War and reiterated the Republican platform, classifying slavery as a “social, moral, and political evil.”

Another noteworthy finding this year is the New York Young Republican Club's significant role in organizing Governor Calvin Coolidge's speech at Carnegie Hall on October 28th, 1920. Their efforts brought the Republican Vice Presidential nominee to a prominent stage, where he emphasized international collaboration to lessen war risks, either through the League of Nations or a new body. Coolidge, aligning with Senator Harding, opposed changes to the League's covenant and criticized the Democratic Administration and President Wilson for inefficiency.

He highlighted the necessity of U.S. sovereignty in international affairs and championed Republican leadership as essential for effective governance and peace, drawing inspiration from Abraham Lincoln. This event, masterfully orchestrated by the club, showcased their influential role in political discourse.

In commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the NYYRC History Committee collaborated with the NYYRC Veterans Caucus and the Sullivan County Young Republicans for a 'Journey Back in Time.' Together, we honored the sacrifices and embraced the lessons learned from this pivotal moment in American history on a visit to the battlefield.

In closing, consider this tantalizing question: What unites illustrious figures such as Louis J. Lefkowitz, Kenneth F. Simpson, Thomas E. Dewey, Jacob K. Javits, John V. Lindsay, Nelson A. Rockefeller, and Richard M. Nixon? The answer lies in their shared history as alumni of the New York Young Republican Club, each having left an indelible mark on the political fabric of New York and the United States. While the History Committee continues its research into our esteemed alumni, these highlighted figures serve as a compelling invitation for you to delve deeper. We encourage you to visit our History page on the Club's website for a more comprehensive understanding of the Club's influential legacy.

As we look forward to 2024, we remain committed to maintaining the dynamic and proactive spirit that has characterized our organization. With a deep respect for our storied past, we are equally excited about actively shaping our current landscape and the years ahead. We encourage other young Republican clubs to embrace a similar blend of historical respect and present-day engagement. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members for their unwavering support and keen interest in the multifaceted history of the Republican Party and American governance.

For real-time updates and information on upcoming trivia events, socials, and historical-themed tours, please follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @NYYRC_History.

Letters From Elected Officials

Dear New York Young Republicans,

It's an honor to be a part of your 111th Annual Gala! Congratulations on your continued success and growing support of your important mission. Your organization's impact and the crucial message you deliver cannot be understated, especially during this dark time for our nation. In the medical field, the term 'critical' is reserved for patients with the most severe conditions. Unfortunately, the United States is now on life support under Joe Biden.

Joe Biden's legacy will be one of corruption and historic failures. Today, because of Biden's incompetence, we have a historic border crisis with terrorists and fentanyl flooding in, skyrocketing inflation and interest rates that continue to put the American dream out of reach, and woke ideology plaguing our school systems and our military readiness.

With your help, volunteering in key races, and amplifying our America First message, in less than a year, we will restore America to the shining beacon of hope and prosperity she once was. We will return to policies that prioritize law and order, restore fiscal sanity, keep children out of the radical Left's crosshairs, and re-establish America's standing on the world stage.

Thank you for your Clubs' strong support for President Trump and for all of the critical work you do that's ahead of us in our mission to save America. An exciting, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change the direction of our country is well within our reach.

Sincerely,



Hon. Roger W. Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator for Kansas

Dear New York Young Republican Club members,

Congratulations on your 111th Annual Gala! Your club is the premier Young Republican club in the nation, and the club to which all others should be measured. You are the tip of the spear in the young conservative, populist, and nationalist movements, and a constant reminder that we are still in the fight.

The success and thriving membership of this club, in the midst of a deep blue city that has been abandoned by its leaders and thrust into a state of anarcho-tyranny, proves that our message is a winning message. The future belongs to us.

The preamble to the Constitution dedicates this nation to our posterity, and with the leadership of the New York Young Republican Club, I am certain that our posterity is in good hands.

I'm thinking we're back.

Sincerely,



Hon. Matt L. Gaetz
United States House of Representatives (FL-1)

Dear New York Young Republican Club,

I wanted to write to congratulate you on your successful 111th Annual Gala! Its truly inspiring that the Club has now been an important voice for Republicans in New York for over a century. Today, as New York Republicans are surging forward as voters tire of the one-party rule by Far Left Democrats, organizations like yours are at the tip of the spear exposing the multiple crises created by Kathy Hochul, Albany Democrats, and Democrat Members of the New York Congressional delegation.

I've seen firsthand how members of the Club have volunteered for Republicans throughout New York State, from registering voters to phone banking to knocking on doors. You have gone above and beyond. I want to thank all the members who have generously donated and attended not only fundraisers for my campaign but also Republicans across the state.

The political battle in 2024 will be our toughest yet. New York is the battleground for control of the Congress. We must also ensure that President Trump wins every single Republican delegate from our state, and we must press forward to ensure that we not only hold our Republican Congressional seats but that we expand our GOP majority further into the Hudson Valley. Thank you for the Club's incredibly strong support for President Trump and thank you in advance for all your hard work in the upcoming election!

Regards,



Hon. Elise M. Stefanik
United States House of Representatives (NY-21), Republican House Conference Chair

Dear New York Young Republican Club members,

Congratulations on hosting your 111th Annual Gala with an excellent lineup of speakers and guests. As the oldest and largest Young Republican Club in the United States, your club has been on the frontlines of the fight for our Constitutional freedoms since 1856. It is an honor to be a part of your club that has continuously hosted this Gala despite major world events, including both world wars and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 100 years since it was written, your mission statement perfectly summarizes our fight as Republicans: "To promote and maintain the principles of the Republican Party; to foster within the Republican Party and make practical in service of the municipality, state and nation, the idealism characteristic of youth; to correct in our own party that tendency of all parties to make organization an end rather than a means; to develop sound principle and public spirit in party politics; to promote honest and fair electoral methods, to the end that the expression of the popular will by whatever party or body, shall be as free, untrammelled and equal as possible; to resist and expose political corruption; to advocate merit rather than partisan service as entitling to public office; to watch legislation and to encourage public attention to and efficiently criticize the conduct of government".

The New York Young Republican Club has a rich history of dynamic leadership and strong advocacy for our state and our nation. It is no surprise that you have unanimously selected the tenacious and fearless Gavin Mario Wax, who will continue to lead your club's mission to new heights. Congratulations on another successful year and annual gala. It is an honor to support you and I am grateful for your leadership, partnership and advocacy for our shared values. As you know, the 2024 Election is the most important election in our lifetime, and I am confident you are on the right side of history.

Sincerely,



Hon. Claudia L. Tenney
United States House of Representatives (NY-24)

New York Young Republican Club,

It is an honor to be back in New York to attend your 111th Annual Gala. You continue to be the most based Republican Club since the birth of our party in 1854.


It takes hard work to win elections and great influence to convince others to join our cause. Your club has exhibited a mastery of both. Thanks to the efforts of your club, the future of our party is bright.

Even in the Swamp and down in the Great state of Georgia I've continued to see the impact NYYRC and its members have had on shaping discourse. Your support for candidates and elected officials, as well as steering office holders back to their conservative roots when they have strayed, is making a difference.

Thank you all again for the support and hospitality your club has shown me during my bid for Congress and now as a member. I look forward to continuing to partner in your success.

Together, we will not eat the bugs or live in the pods.

Put the hammer down and keep on truckin'.



Hon. Michael A. Collins Jr.
United States House of Representatives (GA-10)

Gavin M. Wax , President
New York Young Republican Club

President Wax, Governors, and Members of the New York Young Republican Club:

Congratulations on your 111th Annual Gala! Each year, your gala becomes a greater exhibition of the NYYRC's growing influence among young Conservatives. The Club's robust community of patriots is an invaluable resource for the success of candidates seeking to restore New York City to its former, prosperous glory from the democrat-ruined sanctuary city.

Although the Republican majority has triumphed in the 118th Congress, Conservatives are still fighting an uphill battle. We must remain on the offense to end the weaponization of the federal government and defend the Constitution from power-thirsty elites.

I would be remiss if I did not commend your fierce defense of President Donald J. Trump. The Department of Justice's political persecution is a farce and only another reason to drain the swamp. Americans, like you, hold the power to change the course of our country.

Once again, congratulations on your 111th Annual Gala! I look forward to your future successes for New York City and the entire nation.

Sincerely,



Hon. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
United States House of Representatives (AZ-4)

Dear New York, Young Republican Club,

Congratulations on your 111th Annual Gala! The Club has been a crucial voice for not only Republicans in New York but across the Nation. In New York, you have seen and lived under one-party rule for over decades and experienced its consequences. You have witnessed what comes with the policies of the Far Left: increased criminality, record cost of living hikes, soft on crime and catch and release policies, open borders, and an American Last agenda.

You have fought hard against these policies, and even though last year you honored me with the Theodore Roosevelt Jr Award, it is still my position that this Award belongs to all of you and the work you do on the ground. Without your work here in New York and your work to support GOP candidates, our progress would be stifled.

Because of your work and dedication, The Club has helped to rip through the Democrats' stranglehold on New York, and ushered in new GOP representation across the state through your commitment to the rule of law, border security, constitutionality, and the American worker.

From the front doors of New Yorkers, to the front lines of the GOP majority, thank you again for all your hard work.

Let's take back America,



Hon. Cory L. Mills
United States House of Representatives (FL-7)

Dear NYYRC,

Serving as the Congressman for New York's 19th District has been the honor of a lifetime. I'm grateful for all of your help as we pulled off the win, flipped this district, and delivered a Republican Majority to the House of Representatives. Since that time, we have been able to accomplish much for the people of Upstate New York; combatting inflation and working to drive down the cost of living, demanding we secure our border and support law enforcement; continuing the work we started in Dutchess for those with special needs, and holding the President and Governor accountable!

As we enter into yet another election cycle next year, make no mistake, this Republican majority runs through New York - and, you're key to our ground game and success. New Yorkers are the majority makers, and I will fight tirelessly to maintain that majority. I'm thankful for this opportunity to serve, grateful to you and look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail these next twelve months as we hold NY19, the Republican majority in the House - and help make better the greatest republic the sun has ever shined upon!

Sincerely,



Hon. Marcus J. Molinaro
United States House of Representatives (NY-19)

Gavin Wax, President
New York Young Republican Club

Dear Fellow New York Young Republican Club Members,

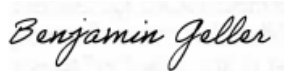
It is my sincere honor to congratulate you on hosting New York's 111th annual Premier Gala. NYYRC has been an unstoppable source of strength in New York with the mission of fighting for our Freedoms without rest.

NYYRC is the oldest and largest young Republican Club in the country and that is no small feat. Under the leadership of Gavin Wax and the Executive Team, you have changed the course of history in New York and around our great nation. It has been a great honor to be the Chairman of the Board of Advisors to the Club the past few months.

I am sincerely grateful for your endorsement last election cycle along with the volunteerism that led to an amazing victory for residents in the Hudson Valley. It has given me the tools to stand up for those within the community and improve the lives of so many.

I look forward to continue working alongside all of you in our mission to "to promote and maintain the principals of the Republican Party."

Warm Regards,



Legislator Benjamin Geller
Dutchess County Legislature (LD-4)

Dear President Wax and Members of the New York Young Republican Club,

Congratulations on holding your 111th Annual Gala!

I am acutely aware of how valuable the support of your organization has been to the success of Republican candidates and elected officials like myself. These past few years, more than ever, NYYRC's fearless advocacy, tireless enthusiasm and smart organizing helped to galvanize the GOP base and sway independents as we head into the pivotal 2024 election year.

It is always an uphill battle for Republican candidates in New York, but the energy and passion of the New York Young Republican Club fills me with optimism for the our future of our party. I am grateful for everything the NYYRC does to promote Republican values and principles, to fight for a fair democracy and the free exchange of ideas in New York and this country.

Very truly yours,



Hon. Joseph C. Borelli
New York City Council (CD-51), Minority Leader

Good Evening Friends, Fellow Young Republicans, and Supporters:

I hope this message finds you in good spirits as we come together to celebrate another successful year for the New York Young Republican Club at this annual gala. In addition to being a Club member, I represent the 48th District in Brooklyn and am the Minority Whip in the New York City Council. Thanks to the efforts of many of you gathered here today, we're pushing back here in New York City block by block against one-party rule and I'm proud to be a part of that effort.

This Club's history is intertwined with the survival and success of the American system and way of life. Your predecessor organization invited Abraham Lincoln to speak at the Cooper Union. A few years back when the Club was spearheading the efforts to protect Theodore Roosevelt's statue at the Museum of Natural History, the Club was again catapulted to serve a special role in this unfolding next chapter.

Last month I stood in front of the very same Cooper Union calling for the resignation of the college president, and in support of Jewish students who were barricaded in the library, while physically threatened and intimidated. The decline and destruction of these institutions and their capture by woke and totalitarian ideologies is exactly what we're fighting and why we must never give up or give an inch. These connections are not just symbolic coincidence. They are all over this Club's history and story. And from my heart to yours I am happy and proud to be here tonight to celebrate 2023 and look forward to a better 2024 and better country to come where we recover and renew our City, State, and Country.

Sincerely,



Hon. Inna Vernikov
New York City Council (CD-48), Minority Whip

Fellow NYYRC Members,

I want to wish you sincere congratulations on this occasion of our 111th Annual Gala in New York City.

The New York Young Republican Club has been a beacon of light to young New Yorkers seeking truth, tradition, and honor in a city often bereft of these crucial values.

And importantly, the NYYRC has become the nucleus of organizing and energy for the candidates and activists who are delivering much-needed change to our great city and to our nation as a whole.

Under the stalwart leadership of Gavin Wax, the NYYRC has multiplied exponentially in its influence and effectiveness, and I am looking forward to many more years of cooperation with our partners at the NYYRC.

Onward to a bright future,



Hon. Vickie Paladino
New York City Council (CD-19)

Thank you, Gavin Wax & the New York Republican Club,

Rural upstate NY Schoharie County Republicans and America's Assemblyman Chris Tague are honored to be represented tonight as we celebrate the hard work of Chairman Wax and The New York Young Republican club. The oldest and largest GOP club in America. We appreciate your friendship and support and are honored to be your guest and partners. "The Time is Now" to stand together and re-elect President Trump save our country and bring common sense back to America. Let's "Make America Great Again"!

Happy Holidays, God Bless, and God Bless America!

My Very Best,



Hon. Chris Tague
Chairman Schoharie County Republican Committee
Member NYS Assembly AD#102

Thank you President Trump & the New York Young Republican Club.

Putnam County and the greater Hudson Valley is grateful to our growing list of Republican & Conservatives allies.

We thank Senator Marshall and all other speakers, sponsors, and guests for supporting this evening's gala and for investing in the growth of our GOP.

Special thanks to Chairman Wax and all the hard working men and women of the New York Young Republican Club, the oldest and largest of its kind in America, as you celebrate your 111th Annual Gala!

Sincerely,



Hon. Kevin M. Byrne
Putnam County Executive

*“Never forget, the press is the enemy.
The establishment is the enemy; the
professors are the enemy. Professors are
the enemy. Write that on a blackboard
100 times and never forget it.”
– President Richard M. Nixon*

Dear fellow New York Young Republicans:

Let me congratulate you all on the occasion of your 111th Annual Gala. The New York Young Republican Club has a distinguished history, and the current leadership headed by Gavin Wax continues to add its storied annals with significant successes on campaign trail and with incredible gatherings of party stalwarts including tonight's event.

As a longtime Young Republican myself, I know that our party's future and present is rooted in the strength of its youngest members. Whether it is pounding the pavement as a volunteer, in the backroom of a political campaign as operatives, or seeking and holding office as candidates and elected officials, Young Republicans are contributing to the Republican Party's vibrancy and competitiveness at every level of government.

I am proud to see all this club has achieved in the last several years and look forward to continuing to partner with each and every one of you to win races across our city, state and country in 2024!

May God bless you this holiday season and may God bless America!

Very truly yours,



Hon. David M. Carr
New York City Council (CD-50)

The Wide Awakes: A Beacon for Modern Grassroots Activism

By Aldo J. Solares, Club Historian

Introduction

In the annals of American political history, the Wide Awakes hold a unique and influential position. As a grassroots youth movement in the tumultuous 1860s, they shaped the course of a critical presidential election. They set a precedent for how youth-led political activism can galvanize a nation. This essay explores the essential aspects of the Wide Awakes, with a special focus on the role of the legacy club of the New York Young Republican Club, the New York Young Men's Republican Union, during the march held in New York City. It aims to offer valuable insights for modern grassroots organizations on harnessing the power of youth, organizational discipline, and symbolism in effecting political change.

Origins and Formation

The Wide Awakes originated in Hartford, Connecticut, in early 1860, initially as a group escorting the abolitionist speaker Cassius Clay. Comprised mostly of young men, they quickly evolved from a mere escort group to a structured political movement within the burgeoning Republican Party. This rapid transformation was underpinned by a shared desire for political change, particularly against the backdrop of a nation deeply divided over the issue of slavery.

Political Context and Influence

The Wide Awakes emerged when Abraham Lincoln, a relatively unknown figure in national politics, was running for president. Their support was crucial in boosting his candidacy, especially among younger voters. The movement was characterized by its firm stand against the expansion of slavery, aligning closely with Lincoln's moderate

anti-slavery stance. The South has been taught to regard them as a military force, raised and trained for purposes of aggression upon Southern rights. Their efforts were instrumental in mobilizing public opinion and rallying support for the Republican cause.

Organizational Characteristics

A defining feature of the Wide Awakes was their military-style organization. Donning uniforms of capes and caps and conducting torch-lit parades, they created a striking and disciplined presence that resonated with many Americans. This approach was not merely about aesthetics; it symbolized their readiness to confront and challenge the prevailing political norms. The total amount of members is numbered in the tens of thousands. Some historical accounts suggest there were as many as 100,000 Wide Awakes across the United States. Club names were rich in symbolism and purpose. These included the 'Railsplitters,' reflecting Abraham Lincoln's humble beginnings; 'Lincoln Guards' and 'Lincoln Rangers,' underscoring a commitment to Lincoln's ideals; local 'Wide Awake Clubs'; 'Union Clubs,' aligned with the Union's cause; and 'Freedom Clubs,' emphasizing their anti-slavery stance.

The March in New York City

The New York Young Men's Republican Union, a predecessor of the New York Young Republican Club, formed New York State's inaugural "Wide-Awakes" company, which played a key role in disseminating substantial campaign materials. A pivotal moment for the Wide Awakes was their march in New York City on October 2nd, 1860, showcasing their organizational strength and influence. This march attracted a multitude of participants, vividly showcasing their dedication to Lincoln's campaign and the wider Republican agenda. The march's well-disciplined and orderly presentation, enhanced by the symbolic use of torches and banners, generated a striking visual impact that captivated public attention. This display powerfully highlighted the depth of their political commitment.

Impact on the 1860 Presidential Election

The efforts of the Wide Awakes, particularly in key states like New York, were pivotal to Lincoln's

eventual victory in the 1860 election. Their ability to mobilize young voters, organize large-scale public demonstrations, and create a unifying symbol of political change played a significant role in shaping the electoral outcome. The movement's influence extended beyond mere numbers, creating momentum and inevitability around Lincoln's candidacy.

Post-Election Influence and Legacy

Following Lincoln's election, the influence of the Wide Awakes did not wane. Many of its members joined the Union Army, applying their organizational skills to the military effort during the Civil War. The legacy of the Wide Awakes lies in their demonstration of how a well-organized, disciplined, and symbolically potent grassroots movement can effect significant political change.

Lessons for Modern Grassroots Movements

Modern grassroots organizations can draw several lessons from the Wide Awakes. First, the importance of engaging and mobilizing youth cannot be overstated. Young people bring energy, fresh perspectives, and a willingness to challenge the status quo. Second, the power of symbolism and a strong visual identity in creating a cohesive and impactful movement. The uniforms and torch-lit parades of the Wide Awakes created a powerful visual identity that resonated with the public. Third, the effectiveness of grassroots organizations in influencing the political landscape. Despite the absence of modern technology, the Wide Awakes relied on face-to-face interactions, printed materials, and public demonstrations to spread their message and mobilize support.

Conclusion

The story of the Wide Awakes is not just a historical curiosity but a blueprint for modern political activism. In a time when political engagement is crucial, their legacy offers valuable insights into the potential of youth-led movements, the power of disciplined organization, and the enduring impact of symbolic action. The Wide Awakes serve as a beacon for contemporary political activists, illuminating the path to effective and transformative political engagement.

Objects

To promote and maintain the principles of the Republican Party; to foster within the Republican Party and make practical in service of the municipality, state and nation, the idealism characteristic of youth; to correct in our own party that tendency of all parties to make organization an end rather than a means; to develop sound principle and public spirit in party politics; to promote honest and fair electoral methods, to the end that the expression of the popular will by whatever party or body, shall be as free, untrammelled and equal as possible; to resist and expose political corruption; to advocate merit rather than partisan service as entitling to public office; to watch legislation and to encourage public attention to and efficiently criticize the conduct of government.

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