

The New York Young Republican Club

Record

Letter from the Gala Chairman:



Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the most glamorous night in Republican politics.

On behalf of the New York Young Republican Club's Board of Governors, we are honored to share this historic evening with you. Tonight, we gather over 1,000 distinguished guests in New York City – returning to the iconic Cipriani Wall Street – to celebrate the Club's fabulous successes in what has been a triumphant year for the Republican Party.

Last December, at our 111th Annual Gala, we had the privilege to host President Donald J. Trump as our Keynote Speaker. Many of us remember the spectacle: a crowd of 1,100 black-tie-clad men and women greeting our hometown hero with rapturous applause to a rousing chorus of "God Bless the U.S.A." It was a glorious sight to behold. In his introductory remarks for President Trump last year, our Club's President, Gavin Wax, proclaimed, "Make no mistake about it: the Trump movement is truly a New York movement." This year, let's make no mistake about it: New York delivered for President Trump.

On the heels of a historic election, the Club and our members are proud to have played an instrumental role in helping deliver some of the greatest numbers seen in decades by Republicans in New York. Our efforts in New York City alone helped shift votes towards President Trump in Queens and The Bronx by 22%, in Brooklyn by 14%, and in Manhattan by 11% since 2020. Our help organizing and successfully executing some of the Trump campaign's most iconic moments – from Harlem and the South Bronx to Madison Square Garden – furnished confidence in the American people to reelect our President decisively and triumphantly. It has been an amazing ride. One for the books. Our hard work paid off. Tonight, we celebrate.

After I assumed the role of Gala Chairman earlier this year, I often found myself asked at Club functions, "How are you going to top last year's Gala?" "Well," I often replied with a smile, "you and I both know how." We would have to make this year's Gala even bigger and better. If the elections went our way, come December, we would have to throw an American presidential ball ringing in a victory the likes of which the world has never seen – not since President William Howard Taft's Keynote Address at our inaugural Gala 112 years ago. This year's Gala would be an exuberant celebration of a unified America that came together to deliver a brighter future for our country.

By the grace of God, we did it.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of our entire Board of Governors and Gala Committee in making our 112th Annual Gala a beautiful success. Congratulations to all of our award recipients and honored guests. Everybody knows that the New York Young Republican Club throws the best Galas, and we are proud to continue that tradition in 2024.

To all our distinguished guests, thank you for joining us in making history. Let's have an evening to remember.

Brent A. Morden *Gala Chairman*

New York Young Republican Club

Speakers



Stephen K. Bannon

Stephen K. Bannon is the former White House Chief Strategist and Senior Counselor to President Donald J. Trump. Prior to his work in government, he served as CEO of President Trump's historic 2016 presidential campaign. Mr. Bannon hosts the nationally-syndicated television, radio show and podcast War Room, and he is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and the former Executive Chairman of Breitbart News. He was a Surface Warfare Officer serving aboard the USS *Paul F. Foster* (DD-964) in the western Pacific, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf, and he served at the Pentagon as a Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations.

Nigel P. Farage MP

Nigel Farage has fought for his country's independence from Brussels since the early '90s, leading the UK Independence Party (UKIP) to numerous election victories, and serving as a Member of the European Parliament in Brussels since 1999. Following his world-changing European referendum win in 2016, Farage established the Brexit Party, now known as Reform UK, with a view to Making Britain Great Again. He is currently the leader of the party and a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons for Clacton. Farage attended Dulwich College, is a popular personality in global media, is a keen fisherman, is a father of four, and even has his own line of gin!





Daniel J. Scavino Jr.

Daniel Scavino Jr. is an influential American political adviser renowned for his significant role in the Trump administration. He boasts a diverse early career, working in sales at Coca-Cola and as a pharmaceutical representative at Galderma, before his skills led him to the Trump National Golf Club Westchester. Scavino's political journey began when he joined Donald Trump's presidential campaign at its inception in June 2015. Initially appointed as the campaign's director of social media in February 2016, he played a pivotal role in crafting its digital presence. Following Trump's victory in the 2016 election, he was named White House Director of Social Media, a position he held until the end of Trump's term. After President Trump won in a historic election in 2024, he announced that Scavino would serve as the White House Deputy Chief of Staff.

Corey R. Lewandowski

Corey R. Lewandowski is the Senior Advisor to President Donald J. Trump's 2024 Presidential Campaign and the President and CEO of Lewandowski Strategic Advisors, LLC a government and public affairs consulting firm. As a TV political commentator, he provides on-air analysis on political news of the day as well as an in-depth understanding of the political process and the administration of President Trump. During the 2016 campaign, he served as Donald Trump's chief political adviser and campaign manager. Corey worked as the Legislative Political Director, Northeast Region, for the Republican National Committee (RNC), as well as in senior positions with several Members of Congress.



Club Awards

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.

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 lead 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 Thomas E. Dewey Award is bestowed upon an individual whose exemplary service in government best embodies the spirit and dedication to the Republican Party. Thomas E. Dewey (1902-1971) was an American lawyer, prosecutor, and politician. Dewey served as the Chairman of the New York Young Republican Club's Board of Governors from 1931 to 1932. He served as the 47th governor of New York from 1943 to 1954. In 1944, he won the Republican Party's nomination for president but lost the election to incumbent Franklin D. Roosevelt in the closest of Roosevelt's four presidential elections. He again served as the Republican presidential nominee in 1948 but lost to Harry S. Truman in one of the greatest upsets in presidential election history. Dewey played a large role in winning the Republican presidential nomination for Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952 and also helped Eisenhower win the presidential election that year. He was instrumental in the selection of Richard M. Nixon as the Republican vice-presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956. As a New York City prosecutor and District Attorney in the 1930s and early 1940s, Dewey relentlessly sought to curb the power of the American mafia and of organized crime in general. Most famously, he successfully prosecuted Mafioso kingpin Charles "Lucky" Luciano on charges of forced prostitution in 1936. Luciano was given a 30- to 50-year prison sentence. Dewey also prosecuted and convicted Waxey Gordon, another prominent New York City gangster and bootlegger, on charges of tax evasion. Dewey almost succeeded in apprehending Jewish mobster Dutch Schultz as well, but Schultz was murdered in 1935 in a hit ordered by The Commission itself; he had disobeyed The Commission's order forbidding him from making an attempt on Dewey's life.

The **Allen W. Dulles Award** goes to an individual who embodies the virulent anti-Marxist spirit of Allen W. Dulles (1893-1969). Dulles was the first civilian Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) and its longest-serving director to date. In the 1948 Presidential election, Dulles served as an advisor to former Club Chairman and Republican nominee Thomas E. Dewey. He championed the Eisenhower Administration's New Look strategy, and, as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, he established global intelligence networks to identify and counter communist efforts. In addition, he oversaw the 1953 Iranian coup d'état, the 1954 Guatemalan coup d'état, and the Lockheed U-2 aircraft program.

The **John Foster Dulles Awar**d goes to an individual that best embodies the anti-Communist spirit of John Foster Dulles (1888-1959). Dulles served as United States Secretary of State under President Dwight D. Eisenhower from 1953 to 1959. He was a significant figure in the early Cold War era, advocating an aggressive stance against communism throughout the world, believing it was "Godless terrorism." Club alumnus, New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey appointed Dulles to the United States Senate to replace Democratic incumbent Robert F. Wagner, who had resigned due to ill health. Dulles served from July 7 to November 8, 1949. He lost the 1949 special election to finish the term to Democratic nominee Herbert H. Lehman.

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

Club Awards

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.

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 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.

The **Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Award** is presented to a Republican candidate who has displayed the highest leadership qualities and character within the Republican Party in prior or current election cycles. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (1887-1944) was an American government, business, and military leader. He was the eldest son of President Theodore Roosevelt and First Lady Edith Roosevelt. Roosevelt is known for his World War II service, including the direction of troops at Utah Beach during the Normandy landings. For his service at Normandy, Roosevelt received the Medal of Honor. He was the first non-founding Club member to be elected to higher office as a member of the New York State Assembly (Nassau County, 2nd D.) in 1920. In the 1924 New York State election, Roosevelt was the Republican nominee for Governor of New York. In addition, he served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy (1921–1924), Governor of Puerto Rico (1929–1932), and Governor-General of the Philippines (1932–1933).

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.

Member Spotlights

Graziana A. Mangione

Graziana A. Mangione was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina and made the move to New York City two and a half years ago to pursue her lifelong dream of living in Manhattan. While currently working in consulting, in her free time she enjoys weightlifting and running, watching sports at bars with friends and traveling with her family. Graziana was eager to find a like-minded community and discovered the New York Young Republican Club in 2023. She recalls her first event, walking into the clubhouse not knowing anyone but being immediately welcomed by friendly faces. This encouraged her to keep attending events where she gradually developed strong friendships and found an outlet for her political interests. As a first-generation American with deep ties to Sicily through her father, Graziana has also connected with the Club's Italian



Caucus. As a board member of the Italian Caucus, she actively works to build relationships and foster a sense of community among Italian Americans & others who are interested in the Italian culture. Passionate about making others feel at home, Graziana is dedicated to being a friendly face to newcomers, just the way she was welcomed when she joined the NYYRC. Through the diverse range of events offered by the NYYRC, Graziana is grateful for the lasting friendships she's formed at social gatherings, as well as the chance to listen to thought-provoking speakers the Club has brought to NYC.

Kritonas C. Dionysiou



Kritonas C. Dionysiou was born in Queens, New York and has remained a lifelong New York City resident. Growing up, he was raised in a traditional Eastern Orthodox and conservative environment. He began his political career working for local candidates in Queens, which coincided with his membership in the New York Young Republican Club in 2021. Across the almost four years that Kritonas has been a member, he has dedicated himself to furthering the Club's mission throughout New York. In 2022, he worked for NYYRC-endorsed candidate and his good friend and mentor Stefano Forte. As Field Director, he managed the on-ground petitioning operation for Mr. Forte's State Senate campaign. Kritonas personally secured over 1,500 signatures and led deployments to cement a Republican stronghold in Queens.

He would continue to prove himself on the Vickie Paladino campaign for New York City Council District 19. Acting as her Deputy Campaign Manager, he helped win Councilwoman Paladino a twenty-point lead against her opponent. In 2024, he acted as the Campaign Manager for Kenneth Paek's State Assembly primary, leading to an overwhelming victory for another NYYRC endorsed candidate. That same year he also joined the NYYRC's Campaigns Committee as the Vice Chairman. Under Campaigns Chairman Mario Nicoletto, Kritonas would help plan and execute various deployments and political events. These ranged from deployments for various local candidates to national ones for President-elect Donald J. Trump, including the NYYRC's involvement in the 2024 Madison Square Garden Rally. With Mario Nicoletto at the helm, he helped steer and structure the Campaigns Committee into a well-oiled machine that saw many victories on Nov. 5th. Kritonas is also a proud member of the NYYRC Queens Caucus and continues to strive toward his goal of a Republican Queens.

Reviving the Spirit of Conservatism: The New York Young Republican Club's Achievements in 2024

By Aldo J. Solares, Club Historian

The History Committee of the New York Young Republican Club proudly announces its 2024 accomplishments, celebrating a year of unparalleled success in grassroots mobilization, voter outreach, and fostering conservatism within New York City and beyond.

We concluded 2023 on a historic high note: President Donald J. Trump was the keynote speaker at the New York Young Republican Club's 111th Annual Gala at the iconic Cipriani Wall Street. This landmark event honored the Club's enduring legacy and underscored its rising prominence within the conservative movement. President Trump were notable conservative leaders such as Representative Matt Gaetz and Senator Roger Marshall, who praised the Club's pivotal role in championing Republican values. This gala set the stage for a transformative year marked by record-breaking rallies, innovative grassroots initiatives. and significant contributions to electoral victories.

Building on a Legacy of Conservative Activism

Inspired by the historical impact of the Young Men's Republican Union, which played a vital role in Abraham Lincoln's election, the NYYRC revitalized conservative energy across New York City. With a strategic focus on engaging Hispanic and Black voters, the Club organized events that expanded Republican outreach and advanced the movement's values. From large-scale rallies to targeted community programs, the NYYRC proved its commitment to mobilizing diverse demographics in support of conservatism.

Building Momentum Through Rallies

Rallies were a cornerstone of the NYYRC's strategy in 2024, drawing thousands of attendees and energizing voters across New York City. These events showcased the Club's organizational excellence and commitment to expanding Republican influence in urban areas.

- South Bronx Trump Rally: Held at Crotona Park, this historic event drew over 25,000 attendees and registered 300 new Republican voters, marking a significant milestone in GOP outreach in the Bronx.
- **Trump's Harlem Visit:** Coordinated by the Club, President Trump's visit to a local bodega highlighted the Republican Party's commitment to engaging minority communities.
- Manhattan Labor Rally: Organized by the newly launched Labor Caucus, this rally championed union support and manufacturing policies, drawing a diverse crowd in alignment with Trump's economic platform.
- Madison Square Garden Trump Rally: With over 100,000 attendees, this monumental rally saw the NYYRC as the core managing force, supported by over 160 volunteers working directly with Team Trump and the Secret Service.

These rallies energized Republican voters and positioned the NYYRC as a leading force for grassroots engagement in New York City.

Launching Caucuses to Drive Grassroots Engagement

To sustain its outreach efforts, the NYYRC launched targeted caucuses that addressed specific voter demographics and policy priorities. These caucuses played a critical role in building momentum and expanding the Club's influence.

 Queens Caucus: Led by Stefano Forte and Alexis Winters, this caucus focused on local outreach and achieved significant victories, such as the re-election of Council Member Vickie Paladino.

- Labor Caucus: Advocated for pro-worker policies, organizing events like the Manhattan Labor Rally to connect with working-class voters.
- Black and Hispanic Caucuses: Partnered with community organizations, including Church of God Brownsville, the NYPD, Rehoboth Cathedral, and the United Clergy Coalition, in collaboration with Zeldin Cares, to deliver partnerships impactful initiatives. These facilitated clothing drives and book donation programs, supporting hundreds of low-income families and promoting goodwill minority communities.

These caucuses, designed to engage diverse communities, became the backbone of the Club's grassroots strategy, enabling it to effectively engage and promote Republican values among a wide range of voters.

Voter Outreach and Election Integrity

The NYYRC's Campaigns Committee spearheaded efforts to engage voters and ensure election integrity, demonstrating the Club's unwavering commitment to democratic transparency and participation.

- Phone Banking Team: With over 90 volunteers, the Club's phone banking operation made over 100,000 calls targeting swing states, focusing on encouraging early voting through collaboration with Trump Force 47.
- Voter Registration Drive Series: The Club registered over 500 new Republican voters in New York City, significantly expanding the GOP's base in the area.
- Election Integrity Volunteers: Volunteer attorneys monitored polling places during Early Voting and Election Day, ensuring fair and transparent elections.

These initiatives played a vital role in supporting President Trump's re-election campaign and strengthening Republican voter engagement.

Expanding Influence Beyond New York City

The NYYRC extended its influence beyond New York, contributing to the national conservative movement through targeted initiatives and playing a significant role in the Republican Party's national efforts.

- "Day of Action" in Bucks County, PA: Led by Campaigns Committee Chairman Mario J. Nicoletto, this initiative deployed members to knock on over 10,000 doors in a key swing state, bolstering Republican efforts in the 2024 election.
- Election Night Watch Party: Over 600 supporters celebrated President Donald J. Trump's re-election as the 47th President and Republican victories across the Electoral and Popular votes, the Senate, and the House while maintaining a stronghold on the Supreme Court.

These efforts highlighted the NYYRC's ability to impact local and national politics.

Growth and Legacy: A Record Year for Membership

The NYYRC ended 2024 with over 1,500 members, marking a record-breaking milestone since Gavin M. Wax became President of the Club in 2019. This growth reflects the Club's remarkable success in mobilizing grassroots support and fostering a community dedicated to faith, family, and patriotism.

Conclusion: Reviving Conservatism Through Grassroots Action

Young Republican New York Club's achievements in 2024 were a testament to the enduring power of grassroots mobilization and community engagement. By drawing on its historical legacy and adapting to the challenges of modern politics, the Club successfully expanded Republican influence in New York City and energized voters across diverse communities. Through record-breaking rallies, caucuses, and impactful voter outreach, the NYYRC demonstrated how grassroots activism can shape the future of conservatism. As the Club looks to the years ahead, its success in 2024 serves as both a blueprint and an inspiration for building a stronger, more inclusive Republican movement grounded in the principles of faith, family, and patriotism.

Stay updated by following us on Twitter and Instagram at @NYYRC_History. The History Committee is launching a podcast to explore the Club's legacy, and subscribe to our Substack, NYYRC History (@nyyrc), for articles as well.

Letters From Elected Officials

Dear New York Young Republican Club,

Congratulations on your successful 112th Annual Gala! For over a century, the New York Young Republican Club has been an important voice for Republicans in New York. In the most important election of our lifetimes, the Club's historic work in New York helped deliver the largest shift in voters towards President Trump in any state in the country!

Thank you to those of you who volunteered throughout New York, from registering voters to phone banking to knocking on doors. Thank you to those who attended fundraisers to support these campaigns. With your help, we made considerable gains in New York City, protected our GOP House Majority, and elected Donald J. Trump as President in a historic landslide! The Club's endorsement of President Trump's 2024 campaign right out of the gate was certainly heard around the world. I also want to give a huge shout-out to my friend Dan Scavino for earning the Frederic René Coudert Jr. Award, there is no one more deserving than the conductor of the Trump Train! Thank you Dan for all you have done and continue to do for New York and our Nation.

Our work has only begun as New York shifts more Republican. In 2026, we must expand our House GOP Majority and fire Kathy Hochul! Republicans will end the disastrous one-party rule here in New York, and it starts with Young Republicans leading the way in the upcoming local elections next year. Thank you for the Club's incredible support for President Trump, for myself, and for New York Republicans up and down the ballot!

Elin M. Sofank

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 112th Annual Gala with an excellent lineup of speakers and guests. This year's gala comes at an instrumental moment in our Nation's history. With the help of the New York Young Republican Club, President Trump won a historic landslide victory in November and delivered House and Senate Republican Majorities. President Trump won every swing state, and thanks to the hard work of organizations like yours, President Trump had a historic performance in New York State.

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, untrammeled 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." We must take these principles to Washington in 2025 with our unified Republican Government.

The New York Young Republican Club has an incredible history of fighting for the freedom and rights of all New Yorkers. I look forward to continuing to work with your outstanding President, Gavin Wax, to deliver wins for Republicans across the Empire State. 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.

Sincerely,

Hon. Claudia Tenney

Claudia Genney

United States House of Representative (NY-24)

Dear Friends,

Thank you.

Your grassroots support has been nothing short of extraordinary. In a year of challenges and hard-fought battles, your energy and commitment stood as a beacon of hope. You helped put Donald Trump over the top and made critical gains in the City, on Long Island, and energized voters across Upstate New York.

You braved the elements, knocked on doors, made countless phone calls, and poured your hearts into this effort. And though we didn't achieve the outcome we desired in my race, please know this: we haven't lost. Our values, our hopes, and our dreams for America -- they endure. They are still here, and they are still worth fighting for.

While I may not hold office next year, I'm not going anywhere. I'm here, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with you, committed to making our state safer, tackling the fentanyl crisis, securing our borders, and ensuring every family has a fair shot at a brighter future.

The work you do is invaluable, and I have no doubt you'll continue turning New York red. As you fight for safety, prosperity, and freedom, know that I am cheering you on every step of the way. Our mission is far from over, and I look forward to standing with you in the battles ahead.

Wishing you every success as you lead the charge toward a stronger, safer, and more free New York State.

Sincerely,

Hon. Marcus J. Molinaro

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United States House of Representatives (NY-19)

Dear Members of the New York Young Republican Club,

Congratulations on the occasion of your 112th Annual Gala. This remarkable achievement reflects not only the rich history of your club but also the continued impact you have in advancing the values of the Republican Party and the conservative movement.

For over a century, the New York Young Republican Club has been at the forefront of fostering leadership, political engagement, and thoughtful discourse among young conservatives. The work you do, both in New York and beyond, led to historic victories this year, securing a Republican Majority in the U.S. House, flipping the U.S. Senate, and sending President Donald J. Trump back to the White House.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get our country back on track. The American people have spoken. Now more than ever it is imperative to have America First conservatives who will work with President Trump to Make America Great Once Again, and I am proud to fight alongside President Trump as a member of Congress.

Thank you again for your invaluable contributions to the Republican Party. I look forward to meeting many of you and working with you to support President Trump's agenda and advance the conservative cause.

Respectfully,

Hon. William Timmons

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United States House of Representatives (SC-4)

New York Young Republican Club,

It is an honor to be back in New York attending your 112th Annual Gala. You continue to be the most based Republican Club since the beginning 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. I know this club was a tremendous help to the success of President Trump taking back the White House.

While campaigning for Republican candidates in D.C. and across the country, 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 officeholders 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 together to keep delivering WINS for our party and country.

Put the hammer down and keep on truckin'.

mis MS

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

Dear Members of the New York Young Republican Club,

It is with great admiration that I commend the extraordinary leadership of Gavin Wax and the remarkable achievements of the New York Young Republican Club. Under Gavin's vision and energy, your club has become a powerhouse of conservative activism, revitalizing the Republican movement in New York and proving that even in the bluest corners of our state, our values can thrive.

Your tireless dedication to advancing conservative principles and supporting President-elect Donald Trump's historic victory is an inspiration. By rallying behind President Trump when others hesitated, mobilizing volunteers across key battlegrounds, and organizing impactful events, the NYYRC has transformed into a force for change and a beacon of hope for Republicans across the nation.

Your club's commitment to engaging with communities, challenging the status quo, and bringing fresh energy to our party has not only helped secure national victories but has also set the stage for a brighter future here in New York. With your help, we can once again win the Governor's Race in New York!

As someone who knows the challenges of running and governing as a Republican in this state, I deeply appreciate your efforts. The NYYRC has shown that New York Republicans can lead with courage, inspire new generations of conservatives, and prove that our message resonates even in the most difficult environments.

The road ahead is filled with opportunities, and I urge you to continue building on your incredible momentum. Together, we can unite our party, grow our base, and restore New York to its full potential.

As the year comes to a close, I want to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. May this season bring joy, peace, and hope to all of you as we look forward to an even brighter future for New York and our nation.

Very truly yours,

Hon. George E. Pataki

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Governor of New York (1995-2007)

Dear Members and Esteemed Attendees.

It is with great pride and admiration that I address this gathering of dedicated individuals who share a profound commitment to advancing Republican values and strengthening our shared vision for New York and the nation. Tonight, as we celebrate the legacy of the New York City Young Republican Club and its enduring impact, we also honor the resolve and determination that has brought us closer to flipping New York red.

Your tireless efforts—whether as members, volunteers, or allies—represent the heartbeat of our movement. Through advocacy, outreach, and an unyielding commitment to our principles, you have proven that change is not only possible but inevitable when driven by passion and purpose. The progress we've made in recent years is a testament to your dedication, and it should inspire us all to continue striving for a brighter future.

This gala serves as a powerful reminder of the strength that unity brings to our cause. The challenges we face as Republicans in New York are significant, but your work and leadership demonstrate that these challenges are opportunities to galvanize support, build coalitions, and chart a path toward victory.

I urge each of you to carry this momentum forward. Let this evening be more than a celebration—let it be a call to action. Together, we can expand on the progress we've achieved and reaffirm the principles that make our party and our nation strong: liberty, personal responsibility, and opportunity for all.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to these ideals and for your commitment to our shared mission. Your contributions to the Republican cause in New York inspire me, and I am honored to stand with you in this fight.

Enjoy this evening of camaraderie and celebration. Know that your efforts are making a difference, and I look forward to working alongside you as we continue to build on our successes.

With gratitude and resolve,

Hon. Anil R. Beephan Jr.

Member NYS Assembly AD#105

Congratulations President Donald J. 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 and congratulate Hudson Valley's own Dan Scavino, and extend our thanks to all our 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 112th Annual Gala!

Sincerely,

Hon. Kevin M. Byrne
Putnam County Executive

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

Congratulations on holding your 112th Annual Gala!

I am aware and appreciative 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, grassroots organizing, and smart and effective party-building have helped lead the beginnings of Republican rebirth in New York City. A tireless effort that extended to swing states this year during President Trump's triumphant victory in the 2024 election.

While an uphill battle for Republican candidates in New York, 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

Dear fellow New York Young Republicans:

Congratulations to you all as we celebrate our club's 112th Annual Gala. The New York Young Republican (NYYR) Club has a long history, and it has every reason to be proud of its monumental efforts in recent years to elect Republicans to public office here in New York and around the country.

Under the leadership of Gavin Wax and his fellow officers, NYYRs have been an instrumental component of so many campaigns and are the most stalwart supporters of our once and future President, Donald J. Trump. NYYRs were crucial part of making Pennsylvania a red state again with tens of thousands of doors knocked in Bucks County under the organizational efforts of our club.

I have been a Young Republican (YR) for many years, and I know firsthand that our party's youngest members are the drivers of our success locally, statewide, and nationally. We need YR at every level of campaigns and government, and the NYYRs are and have been at the vanguard of the Republican Party. I am so grateful to all of you for your efforts.

I also want to thank the club for honoring me at this year's gala. I could not be prouder, and I also want to salute my fellow honorees for all that they have each done to earn this distinction. I believe that our future as a nation is going to be bright, and I look forward to continuing to partner with each and every one of you to win races across our city in 2025!

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

Very truly yours,

Hon. David M. Carr

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New York City Council (CD-50)

Good Evening Fellow Young Republicans and Friends:

I hope this message finds you in good spirits as we come together to celebrate a momentous victory for the party, our country, and toast to the greatest political comeback in American history.

This year, the New York Young Republican Club played a key role in recapturing the White House, the US Senate, holding the US House, and continuing to surge the vote in New York City and State. In addition, the Club's activities campaigning in the City and in the pivotal battleground states like Pennsylvania is to be commended and noticed from coast to coast. I am proud that I had dedicated and committed staff volunteering their time to this end. Setting a standard of excellence and being at the cutting edge of where history is moving is what we Republicans increasingly have come to expect from this storied institution.

Congratulations on recently passing your 1,600th member milestone. I am proud to be a member of this nationally and internationally recognized Club and may this 112th Annual Gala be yet another one for the history books!

Sincerely,

Hon. Inna Vernikov

New York City Council (CD-48), Minority Whip

Fellow NYYRC Members,

We have much to celebrate this year!

Thanks to the leadership of President-elect Trump and in no small part the hard work of this club, our party has just swept to a historic victory.

Not only have we taken control of all three branches of federal government, we've seen the entire nation make a decisive push to the right. Most importantly, right here in New York we saw the most dramatic shift rightward in the entire country as more and more New Yorkers realize there's a better way.

And while we are celebrating tonight, tomorrow we must commit to turning this momentum into results. Together we can take back this city and this state by winning more elections at every level of local government.

I know the NYYRC under the able leadership of Gavin Wax will continue to be at the forefront of Republican victory, as our club grows in membership and influence.

We have much to look forward to - now let's get to work!

Hon. Vickie Paladino

New York City Council (CD-19)

Dear Chairman Wax & The New York Young Republican Club,

Rural upstate New York Republicans from Schoharie County and I, America's Assemblyman Chris Tague, are proud to stand with you tonight as we celebrate the tremendous leadership of Chairman Wax and the New York Young Republican Club. As the oldest and largest Young Republican Club in America, your tireless dedication and passion inspire Republicans everywhere to keep fighting for our shared values.

Together, we celebrate the historic election and triumphant return of President Donald J. Trump to the White House. He achieved significant gains across New York State, including a remarkable 22 percentage point increase within New York City. These unprecedented results reflect a growing alignment with Republican ideals, thanks in large part to the effective work of Chairman Wax and the NYYRC in engaging voters, advocating for common-sense policies and staying true and loyal to our President.

I am thankful for your friendship, your partnership, and for being a powerful voice for our Republican ideals. Let us continue to work together to build a stronger, freer, and more prosperous America, while growing and advancing our Republican Party.

Happy Holidays, God Bless, and God Bless America!

My Very Best,

Hon. Christopher W. Tague

Chairman Schoharie County Republican Committee

Member NYS Assembly AD#102

"The second you think that all your good fortune is a product of your virtue, you become highly judgmental, lacking empathy, totally without self-awareness, arrogant, stupid - I mean, all the stuff that our ruling class is."

- Tucker Carlson

Club Founders

Walter Arndt Albert S. Bard Lindon Bates Jr. J. Beaumont Spencer George M. Bramwell George Brokaw Compton Benjamin R. Buffett Lloyd Carpenter Griscom William M. Chadbourne Alfred Conkling Coxe Jr. Henry H. Curran W. H. Dannat Pell Benjamin M. Day Edward R. Finch Henry W. Goddard Raymond Hull Noble

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Past Club Presidents

1911-1914: Philip J. McCook 1914-1915: Robert McC. Marsh 1915-1918: Alfred C. Coxe Jr. 1918-1920: Ezra P. Prentice 1920-1922: Benjamin M. Day 1922-1926: George W. Perkins 1926-1929: Thomas C. Desmond 1929-1930: J. Edward Lumbard Jr. 1930-1931: Joseph Clark Baldwin 1931-1933: George H. Siblev 1933-1934: Archie O. Dawson 1934-1935: Alexander M. Hamilton 1935-1936: David W. Peck 1936-1937: Paul W. Williams 1937-1938: Phillip B. Thurston 1938-1939: William Bradford Hubbell 1939-1940: Grayson M. P Murphy Jr. 1940-1941: Charles S. Hamilton Jr. 1941-1942: John A. Wells 1942: Cornelius W. Wickersham Jr.* 1942-1943: Charles Miller Metzner 1943-1944: John S. McCook 1944: Livingston Goddard † 1944-1946: Alexander Hehmever 1946-1947: Cornelius W. Wickersham Jr. 1947-1948: Alvin E. Heutchy 1948-1949: Henry V. Poor **1949-1950**: James L. Guilmartin 1950-1951: Elliot H. Godwin 1951-1952: Warren L. Schnur 1952-1953: John V. Lindsay 1953-1954: John G. Linsner 1954-1955: Ross E. Traphagen Jr. 1955-1956: Woodward Kingman 1956-1957: John A. Ahlgren 1957-1958: John C. Howatt 1958: Albert C. Petite †

1959-1960: John McNeil Burns 1960-1961: J. Dudley Devine 1961-1962: Stanley Weiss 1962-1963: E. Virgil Conway 1963-1964: Thomas A. Lauricella Jr. 1964-1965: Donald B. Louria 1965-1966: Charles G. Moerdler 1966-1967: William H. Nickerson 1967-1968: Harry H. Voight 1968-1969: Jacques L. Debrot 1969-1970: David W. Smith 1970-1971: Sidney Davidoff 1971-1972: Joseph L. Forstadt 1972-1973: Jerold R. Ruderman 1973-1974: Seymour G. Siegel 1974-1975: Guy E. C. Maitland 1975-1978: Ellen G. Tencza 1978-1979: Carole Trimble † 1979-1980: Phyllis Friedman 1980-1982: Lee A. Forlenza 1982-1988: Thomas R. Stevens 1988-1993: Andrew Smallcombe 1993-1994: Bruce A. Weinfeld 1994-1995: Grant J. Esposito **1995-1996:** Vanessa Albarran **1996–1997:** Anton Srdanovic 1997-1998: Robert Patterson 1998-2001: Elizabeth Tretter 2001-2004: Jason S. Weingartner 2004-2006: Dennis M. Cariello 2006-2007: Richard Brownell 2007-2010: Lynn Krogh 2010-2012: Jennifer Gallacher 2012-2013: Khalil A. Haddad 2013-2015: Brian R. Morgenstern 2015-2016: Samantha M. McNeilly 2016-2019: Melissa Marovich 2019-Present: Gavin M. Wax

1958-1959: J. Dudley Devine

^{*} Resigned to enter the armed forces † Resigned to enter government service

Toward a Post-Woke American Cultural Renaissance: MAGA and the Reclaiming of the Arts and Entertainment Scene

By Dr. Emilio Pons

In spite of what will surely prove to be an otherwise economically and politically successful second Trump presidency, America will not be able to mobilize the soft diplomatic power of culture to reclaim its rightful status as the world's uncontested leader and as a repository of Western Civilization, unless the conservative movement recaptures and reorganizes the cultural landscape which, with few exceptions, is ideologically thoroughly controlled by the Marxist left.

The Marxist ideology that first aimed to problematize racial relations through a Marxist view of the criminal justice system by highlighting its "disproportionately negative impact" on "people of color" has been extrapolated to analyze all interactions, including our approach to gender, religion, health, and culture.

The Marxist left is openly hostile to all traditional American and Western European values. As a result, the arts cannot currently fulfill their quintessential mission to educate, uplift and civilize the general public through the pursuit of beauty and excellence.

The free market won't be able to fix this issue on its own. The full power of the federal government and Republican states, along with conservative philanthropic efforts of proportions we have not seen in decades, will be necessary to fix the profound intellectual rot in the American arts and entertainment landscape which has been heretofore largely ignored by Republicans who have focused on essential issues like the economy, national security, the healthcare system, etc.

But: is culture really of only secondary importance? Whereas "politics is downstream from culture" as Andrew Breitbart famously said, few things are as essential as culture itself. Culture, understood here narrowly as the arts and entertainment industries, along with the media, undoubtedly has the power to persuade and sway

the nation in a given political direction. A study by Columbia Journalism Review of 1.25 million stories published between April 2015 and election day 2016 showed that right-wing media was instrumental in delivering the White House to President Donald Trump in 2016. Then, between 2016 and 2024, the legacy media, in collusion with the Democrat Party, tried to discredit, malign, ridicule, and silence not just Trump but the conservative movement, its values, and its supporters. Their smear campaign threatened the very soul and foundational principles of the country, and the Democrats' corruption, and their erosion of our rights and freedoms would have continued were it not for President Trump's triumphal victory on November 5, 2024.

The lesson to be learned from the 2024 election cycle is that political outcomes are determined by the arts and entertainment industries because in this era, more than ever, they shape the nation's values and mores. The societal breakdown that gave rise to the woke iteration of Marxism peddled by the Democrat Party is rooted, amongst others, in a long-time failure to develop a coordinated policy at a national level to provide the USA with a unified arts and entertainment vision capable of uplifting the American intellect and spirit. Wokeism attempted to normalize and glorify mediocrity, self-destructive, antisocial, and even criminal behavior, giving societal misfits an opportunity to feel virtuous while engaging in the dismantling of Western Civilization and perpetrating unjust travesties against highly accomplished individuals through mob rule and cancel culture.

Undoing woke culture will contribute to restoring civility and the health of the USA and of the West as a whole since millions of Americans get their behavioral cues from the arts and entertainment industries. For this effort to succeed, we need to seriously re-evaluate the traditional conservative instinct with regards to the funding of culture

which in the USA, until now, has relegated it to the free market. This strategy has backfired since pandering to the lowest common denominator, rather than nurturing the human spirit for the common good, has proven a better vehicle for the capitalist urge to maximize profits and for the corrupt elites who have a chokehold on the arts and entertainment scenes in the USA. The economic profits from this debasing process, however, have come at an extremely high societal breakdown cost. We must create, financially support, and foster better cultural content to counterbalance the decadent cultural output characteristic ofrecent Democratic administrations while also preserving freedom of expression and freedom of speech.

Cultural products do not follow the paradigm which all other goods and services do, and cannot and should not be judged by their direct ROI. European studies have demonstrated, for instance, that for every \$1 invested in cultural subsidies, significantly more money flows indirectly back into the economy. Beyond financial considerations, however, Making American Culture Great Again should be a matter of national pride and part of Trump's MAGA platform. Whereas the USA was once a repository of the Western World's high-brow culture, it is now lagging behind many other Western nations that heavily invest in their cultural institutions.

The investment in culture of the USA's main European competitors in cultural affairs, chiefly France, Germany and Russia, absolutely dwarfs its American counterpart. During the fiscal year 2023, federal, state, and local funding for the arts in the USA totaled \$2.28 billion for an aggregate per capita investment of \$6.83. The National Endowment for the Arts received \$207 million in appropriations, while the State Arts Agencies and the Local Arts Agencies received \$971 million and billion in appropriations, respectively. Meanwhile, with a population of 68.2 million people, and a territory roughly the size of Texas, France had a budget for culture of approximately \$9 billion, that is, \$131.97 per capita, or 1,832% larger than the USA's investment in culture. Germany, with its population of 84.48 million people and a territory roughly the size of Montana, also surpassed the USA by 295% in their investment in the arts with their \$2.3 billion budget, or \$26.98 per capita. Even at a time of economic sanctions, Russia also well surpasses the USA's investment in culture with a \$16.69 per capita investment thanks to their \$2.3 billion budget for their population of 143.8 million.

Germany, France and Russia are not, however, the leading investors in Europe in culture. The three top positions are occupied by Estonia, Latvia, and Hungary. Estonia has a population of

1.37 million and a territory the size of New Hampshire & Vermont combined; yet their budget for culture is \$384 million, or \$281.51 per capita, which makes it 4,021% larger than the USA's. Latvia has a population of 1.88 million, it is similar in size to West Virginia, and boasts a budget for culture of \$454 million, or \$241.23 per capita, which is 3,431% larger than the USA's. Finally, Hungary, roughly the size of Kansas, with its 9.59 million population, has a \$1.7 billion budget, which amounts to \$179.14 per capita and is therefore 2,522% greater than the USA's.

A three-pronged, balanced approach to funding what we've called a Post-Woke American Cultural Renaissance, is needed. A MAGA-aligned mega foundation to rival and displace the "Diversity, Inclusion"-driven Ford and foundations is an essential first step. From a federal perspective, the National Endowment for the Arts must be saved from the new Department of Government Efficiency's chopping block since a correctly managed NEA has the potential to appeal to both right-wing, and center/moderate voters, retain their support, and counter the leftist narrative that Republicans disdain the arts. This re-alignment must also apply to the SAA's and LAA', whose DEI guidelines must be replaced by Elon Musk's and Alexandr Wang's MEI (merit, excellence, intelligence) standards. Finally, international cooperation agreements must be pursued with conservative arts organizations in Europe.

The cultural decline of the West is so steep that we would all consider ourselves so lucky if what we had to fight against were atonal music, expressionist painting, or brutalist architecture the way conservatives of pre-war twentieth century in Europe fought against cosmopolitanism and modernism and against the emerging "mass culture." We have to fight against the Marxist, collectivist woke agenda; the leftist blurring of the line between entertainment and culture; the

corporatist, materialistic commodification of culture; the ghettoization of the arts and media; and above all, we must fight against the leftist, corporatist, globalist agenda that has placed cultural, moral and aesthetic relativism as its core cultural value and as its greatest weapon aimed at destroying Western European and Conservative American culture through "decolonization" narratives and "DEI initiatives."

We need to bring about a rapprochement of the American population with fine arts and culture. We must restore the intimate relation between the American people and its classical Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian legacy. The digitalization of art and entertainment in the internet era has exponentially accelerated the transnational reach of American woke culture which has led to the ghettoization and wokeification of culture across the world. Unless we stop it, we will continue to struggle to convince future voters to steer clear of the easy, attractive, yet destructive cultural degeneracy, moral debauchery and wantonness promoted and financially supported by the left for

their political gain. We must unapologetically support traditional values and our Western European legacy, and recapture the American cultural landscape to ensure the wellbeing of the American people and the cultural, and not just political hegemony, of the great Republican Party for decades to come.



"The press is the enemy. The press is the enemy. The establishment is the enemy. The professors are the enemy. Professors are the enemy. Write that on the blackboard 100 times and never forget it."

- President Richard M. Nixon

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, untrammeled 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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