

East Fishkill Republican Club

News

Government of The People, by The People, for The People

December 2009



From the Club



President

Fellow Republicans:

I wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah and a most successful 2010.

Couple years ago I asked Harvard Business School Professor George Lodge about America's ailments. He said "In the old time, the ranch owners managed the ranch and took care of the ranch and everyone on the ranch. When the ranch owners left the management responsibility to the foreman, the foreman took care of the foreman".

In October we invited Assemblyman Marc Molinaro to address a joint meeting of the Club and the Committee members, which was attended by less than twenty individuals. Marc discussed the problems in Albany, the commuter payroll tax and a proposed constitutional convention. One of the problems was the lack of accountability in Albany.

In November I listened to a talk by ex-Governor Spitzer. He indicated that the problems in Wall Street and Washington were caused by the management taking care of their personal interests and ignoring their fiduciary responsibilities to the owners of the business – the shareholders.

Remember Lee Iacocca, the man who rescued Chrysler Corporation from its death throes? He's now 82 years old and has a new book, 'Where Have All The Leaders Gone?' Lee Iacocca Says: "Am I the only guy in this country who's fed up with what's happening? Where the hell is our outrage? We should be screaming bloody murder! We've got a gang of clueless bozos steering our ship of state right over a cliff, we've got corporate gangsters stealing us blind, and we can't even clean up after a hurricane much less build a hybrid car. But instead of getting mad, everyone sits around and nods their heads"'

In the 1960's President Kennedy, a Catholic went to Rome and when he visited the Pope, he never bowed down and when asked why he did not bow to the Pope, President Kennedy said "The President of the United States bows to no one". Yet President Obama does not seem to believe in the supremacy of the United States.

The common theme in the words of these individuals is that the problems are caused by the fact that the owners (You and I) let the foremen (congressmen, senators, assemblymen, corporate executives, etc) manage their business as they see fit to satisfy their personal agendas. We see that in Washington in spades where the majority of these representatives and senators, if not all, are spending our money like drunken sailors and enhancing their pay and their benefits in the process. They send our children to war and not theirs, and they take care of their remunerations not ours. We see that on Wall Street and Corporate America where the pay of the senior executives is 400+ times that of the average entry worker compared to only 40 times twenty years ago.

Thus if we need to change things, we the owners need to start supervising the foremen. We should attend the various meetings and express our views. We should write to our representatives in Albany and Washington and the managers of our retirement and mutual funds expressing our dissatisfaction with, or praising their behavior as appropriate. I know it would take time and effort, but what is the alternative? Are you happy with the current situation?

With the elections coming, we should ask the candidates,

- Do you believe that the United States is the Supreme among all?
- Will you live up to the responsibility I am delegating to you and put my interests above yours?
- How often are you going to hold feedback sessions and listen to us, and how accessible will you, not your staff, be to us?
- Are you going to ask the law enforcement agencies to enforce the mutual fund managers and the retirement fund managers to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities to us – the owners- rather than to the CEO's – the foremen?, and,

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- When Newt Gingrich and the Republican minority signed the “Contract with America” they got elected and they delivered. Are you willing to sign a contract to what you are committing to us?

Assemblyman Molinaro promised to identify whom to contact and write to for the various issues. So, let us accept his offer. Let us get control of what is ours.

Please help save America and its businesses- Get involved and God Bless the USA – The greatest country in the world.

Helmy El-Sherif

Latest News

The Republican Club sponsored a little league team last summer. They gave us a placket appreciating our gift. The Town Supervisor John Hickman is trying to find a way to have it hung in the Community Center.

From Your elected Officials

John Hickman, E. Fishkill Town Supervisor

First, I would like to thank Republican Club President, Helmy El-Sherif for all of his hard work; he is doing a terrific job. Now, Helmy had asked me about the Town so let me say that we have been doing so many things to address the challenges facing us in government and our constituents.

We brought water to Presidential Way, we will take over Sagamor Sewer in February and roll back the rates for the people in that district, we resolved a flooding problem in Wicoppee and are very close to resolving a major flooding issue North of the Hamlet, and we may well still get our grant to design a plan to alleviate Fishkill Creek flooding (that plan will allow us to access FEMA funding). We are preparing an Open Space Preservation Plan and are working with some parties to (hopefully) redevelop the former IBM West Complex.

As far as our budget, we kept Town taxes flat for the last two years. After I took office in 2006 we had an independent trend analysis performed on our operations. From that we determined what revenues had to be increased and what expenses had to be cut. Acting on that analysis back then has put us in a very good position economically (we have the highest bond rating of any town in Dutchess County). In fact, we are still looking for ways to cut expenses.

Recently, we had computers installed on our salt spreaders to regulate and record the amount of road salt that we put down to see what savings we can achieve there (we spent \$700,000 on road salt last year alone).

There is one other project that I find very exciting. The Town Board has recognized the need for an indoor recreation facility. Recently we engaged a local consulting firm to help us design a new building (I put a cap on the building project of three million dollars). Now, Toll Brothers just received final approval for their Hopewell Glen project and submitted their recreation fee of one million, three hundred thousand dollars to be used for recreation development. So we are exploring our options to see how we can serve the needs of our community in the most economically responsible manner. Boy, it is never dull around here!

Anyway, those are a few of the things that we are working on (also, I am still trying to get a handle on the Hillside Lake problem and I have a meeting with some specialists on that project next week). But, before I go, I would like to thank the voters that had the faith in me and my team to return us to office.

Everything that we do is a result of so many of us in our government working together and our goal is to, simply, do what is best for our constituents.

Thank you.

John Hickman

Calendar of Events

- March 20, 2010: Comedy Night at the Knights of Columbus
- Spring 2010: Wine and Beer tasting (date to be determined)
- August 7, 2010: Lobster dinner at Whortekill Club
- Fall 2010: Annual recognition Dinner (date to be determined)

Membership Application

Dues are paid on a calendar year basis. Family dues are \$8.00 and individual dues are \$5.00. If you would like to join, please clip out this notice, fill it and return it with a check payable to:

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PO Box 524
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip _____

Email: _____

Amount Paid: \$ 8.00 _____ \$ 5.00 _____

Wits and Wisdom

Even in war, moral power is to physical as three parts out of four.

Napoleon I

There will be no Club meeting in
December.