

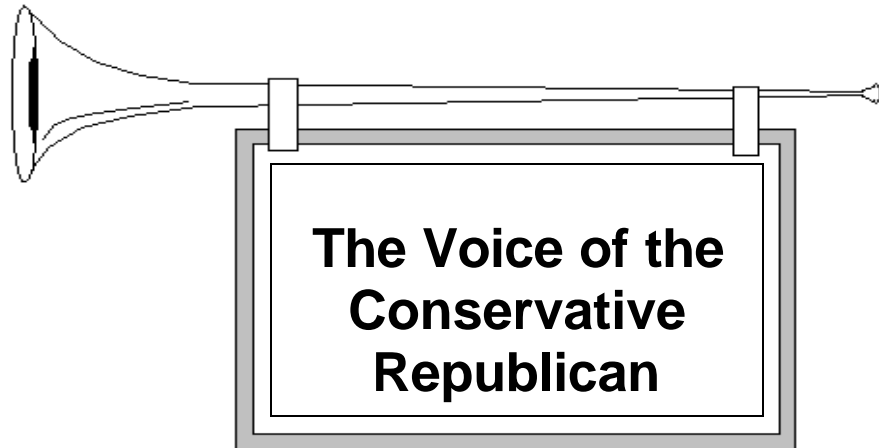
# TAPROOT *Trumpet*

Vol. 39 No. 4

September 2005

**F or if the  
TRUMPET  
give an  
uncertain  
sound, who  
shall prepare  
himself to the  
battle?**

**1 Cor. 14:8**



## Brady Makes Pitch for Governor

State Senator Bill Brady (R, Bloomington-Normal) made his pitch for Governor of Illinois to TAPROOT July 16. He made perhaps his most salient point when he noted that the voters from downstate Illinois will not support a candidate from the Chicago area. The Democrats and Independents there are more conservative than the Republicans. They are pro life, pro-gun and against special rights for homosexuals. They do not trust Chicago Republicans.

This means that a Republicans like Jim Oberweis, Steve Rauschenberger, Judy Baar Topinka, Joe Birkett, and Ron Gidwitz are probably going to lose, if Brady is right.

On the other hand, Brady put himself forward as the most credible candidate saying, "I can't stand idly by to watch this gentleman (Rod Blagojevich) destroy our state." Brady brings to the campaign, credentials which include a back ground in the construction industry, having built 150 homes per year. He is not an attorney. He owns two radio stations. And he won his election to the Illinois House by going door-to-door.

Illinois lost 44,000 jobs, and Brady blames the current governor and his "pay to play" corruption. The candidate boasts both

legislative and business experience. He knows how to "grow jobs". Without Blago, Illinois would have gained 200,000 jobs. Instead, the governor expanded welfare by 300,000.

Brady proposed abolishing the state board of education as a critical reform. He supports parental choice in education. He helped pass a tax credits bill and wants to double that.

Contact: address: P.O. Box 5314, Bloomington, IL 61702 ;  
Phone: 866-746-2006;  
web: [www.bradyforgovernor2006.com](http://www.bradyforgovernor2006.com)

### Downers Grove Watch

The second speaker of the morning was Andy Clark, of Downers Grove Watch. His group is organizing a petition drive to remove home rule powers from the City of Downers Grove.

Under the 1970 Illinois Constitution, a municipality of 25,000 or more persons can invoke home rule powers. It can raise taxes without limit (except the income tax) and avoid tax caps. Downers Grove has raised taxes on gas and utilities.

Clark informed the group that home rule can be ended by referendum. The petition drive needs 10% of the voters in Downers Grove to put the question on the ballot. The group needs 3300 signatures; it has 2300. The election is March 21, 2006.  
(See page 2)

**GOP Stumbles at State Fair**  
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# Local Pols Enjoy Picnic

TAPROOT held its annual picnic August 14 in Westmont. State Representative Bob Biggins (R-41) took the group up on its offer of an "open mike". Well, the open mike failed to materialize and speakers had to resort to the good old fashioned art of oratory. Biggins gave a legislative update and complimented TAPROOT, saying he was glad to receive the newsletter, knowing that back home voters support conservative policies.

State Rep Patty Bellock also made an appearance. Andrea Koshaba, a Republican Trustee from Elk Grove Township, gave a short talk on the importance of township government. The picnic presented a great venue for good political talk.

Thanks go to Dave Diersen and Carolyn Connell for setting up. ○

## *Steroid Therapy Causes Cancer*

by Karen Malec  
Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer  
(<http://www.abortionbreastcancer.com/news/050831/>)

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported in its July 29, 2005 press release that a team of scientists has determined that combined oral contraceptives (estrogen plus progestogen) and combined menopausal therapy are "carcinogenic to humans."

Menopausal therapy was formerly classified as "possibly carcinogenic to humans." It has been upgraded to a Group 1 classification, "sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in hu-

mans." Oral contraceptives received the same classification.

This provides additional biological support for a link between abortion and increased breast cancer risk. All three risks involve estrogen overexposure.

The WHO findings have public policy implications for politicians and their bureaucrats who are playing politics with women's lives. The Food and Drug Administration will decide whether to make Plan B, the "morning-after pill," available for over-the-counter sales. Plan B is a high dose of oral contraceptives.

The governors of several states are forcing pharmacists against their consciences to fill prescriptions for Plan B and oral contraceptives. They're telling women that hormonal contraceptives are necessary for their "reproductive health."

All of it is designed to improve pharmaceutical sales and to win votes from clueless left-wing "women's groups."

Public policy implications also exist for schools whose health educators educate students on the use of hormonal contraceptives.

Your job is to be an activist and to spread the word. ○

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### Downers Watch continued from p. 1

Contact: email: [downersgrove-watch@scbglobal.net](mailto:downersgrove-watch@scbglobal.net); phone: 630-769-1143; web: [www.dowersgrovewatch.org](http://www.dowersgrovewatch.org). ○

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*Opinions expressed in the Trumpet belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of TAPROOT Republicans or its Board.*

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# GOP Stumbles at State Fair

by Doug Ibendahl

REPUBLICAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (RYP)  
www.ilryp.org;  
312/648-0061

This past Thursday was **Republican Day** at the State Fair in Springfield. In most respects, the day followed the same routine established in years past

The 19 member State Central Committee of the State Party and the 102 County Chairmen held separate meetings at a downtown hotel in the morning. Maybe just over half of each delegation attended each meeting, which is also pretty typical.

Then around noon it was over to the Fairgrounds for an outdoor lunch and rally for the Party faithful. Take away the candidates, the campaign staffs, and Topinka's state workers, and maybe there were a hundred rank-and-file. That low turnout has also been typical the last few years.

We wish we could tell you that the main story of the day was how the Illinois Republican Party unified around a spirit of renewal and reform. The IL GOP had a terrific opportunity to prove once and for all that it was going to get serious about reclaiming the good government mantle. The Illinois GOP could have said it was going to be the leader in changing the culture of corruption in both Illinois Parties. Republicans could have used this opportunity to show Illinois voters that they are no longer the party of **George Ryan**.

Unfortunately, that opportunity was squandered. If anything, the IL GOP's Old Guard sent a strong message that they are willing to simply entrench even deeper to save themselves. They are happy with the crumbs left by the Democrats, as long as their little group is the one getting the scraps. While most Republicans had to be at their jobs last week, the old political class used the opportunity to argue for preserving the status-quo.

With George Ryan's Federal corruption trial sched-

uled to begin in less than 30 days, the Old Guard somehow decided that the Fair would be a good time to shore up their George Ryan Wing.

To provide you with an honest look at Republican Day, we talked to many attendees and got their perspectives to combine with our own.

**AND THE AWARD GOES TO . . .**

**MOST SURREAL MOMENT** – There were plenty of contenders in this category. But one moment stood out for most of the people we spoke to. As this one came out in a tie, two people share the award: **Congressman Ray LaHood** and **State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka**.

LaHood and Topinka used their time on the podium to lecture everyone else about speaking ill of other Republicans. It was the same old misapplication of Ronald Reagan's 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

Most had trouble keeping down their corndogs after this incredible display of hypocrisy. Have there been two Republicans involved in more crucifixions of good Republicans than Topinka and LaHood? Well, **Bob Kjellander** probably has hammered more nails, but even he had the good sense not to take the podium on Thursday and make such a ridiculous appeal.

**Phil Crane, Peter Fitzgerald, Gary MacDougal** and of course **Jack Ryan** are still pulling the knives out of their backs delivered by Topinka and LaHood – typically thrust by both together.

Republicans are tired of the same old nonsense that's getting us nowhere. Topinka and LaHood should just be honest. When they say "don't speak ill" they really just mean anyone from their dwindling George Ryan Wing. Anyone else is fair game.

**"WHAT WERE THEY THINKING" AWARD** – The lifetime achievement award goes to the **State Central Committee** who reportedly gave **Republican National Committeeman Bob Kjellander** a standing ovation at the conclusion of the closed (See page 4)

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## State fair report, continued from page 3

executive session portion of their morning meeting.

It boggles the mind. The same Committee that deserted Jack Ryan last year, and then took six weeks to give us **Alan Keyes** with no input from Republicans – and then soon abandoned him too – saves their vote of confidence for the one guy who truly deserves to go.

As one Republican observed Thursday, “how do these people walk around with no spine?”

The State Central Committee has obviously become irrelevant, when they aren’t actually doing harm. The good news is they gave us yet another reason for going back to direct election of the Central Committee by Republican voters.

**MOST HONEST MOMENT** – Gubernatorial Candidate **Jim Oberweis** using a part of his remarks to say the obvious – that Bob Kjellander should step-aside as National Committeeman.

As opposed to the vicious, uncalled for attacks the Old Guard has so often leveled against outsiders who they regard as a threat, Oberweis’ remarks were in the spirit of positive change. Here is the actual quote from Oberweis that got the George Ryan crowd’s undies in such a bunch:

*“We know that Governor Blagojevich’s hypocrisy on “ending business as usual in state government” rings hollow with the people of Illinois. While we fight Blagojevich, Republicans do not need the poster child for featherbedding as our National Committeeman. Bob Kjellander, Jr. needs to resign. In this all Illinois Republicans, especially those who seek the trust of our citizens, should be united.”*

So Oberweis is the bad guy for saying the obvious? Given the dwindling crowds at Republican Day and the spankings the IL GOP has been taking at the polls, it’s pretty obvious that voters are tired of the same old tradition of pollyannaish happy talk over elephant ears at the Fair.

**BLAST FROM THE PAST AWARD** – The hands down winner is **Republican National Committeeman Bob Kjellander**. Reminiscent of **George Ryan**’s performance at his last Republican Day in August 2002, Kjellander spent the day telling anyone who would listen that he “did nothing wrong” and “should be judged by his accomplishments.”

What those accomplishments are, other than making himself rich, no one seems to know.

**MOST INAPPROPRIATE REMARK** - The tone of many of the speeches during the afternoon rally made many of the attendees quite uncomfortable. Terms such as “taking out” and “circular firing squads” were repeatedly used by a couple of the candidates. So when during **Ron Gidwitz**’s speech a balloon popped behind him and his spontaneous response was, “there goes Blagojevich” – the crowd winced in embarrassment.

**MOST NOTICEABLE ABSENCE** – the one person, whose presence was noticeably absent even in spirit, was **President George W. Bush**. None of the speakers seemed to have even a word of support for the real leader of our Party. Worse, not a peep about our brave military men and women fighting overseas from any of the GOP leaders on stage.

**BEST DISPLAY OF COMMON SENSE** – A majority of **County Chairmen** reportedly passed a resolution in their closed executive session, which simply would have politely asked Jim Edgar to make a final decision on whether he’s running or not, by Labor Day.

But despite passage, a group of County Chairmen loyal to some of the State Party’s players kept fussing. Not wanting to sit inside all day, the County Chairmen eventually rescinded the resolution. The Chairman of the Association, Bob Turner, is reportedly now supposed to call Edgar to find out how his contemplation is going.

That’s well and good. But it’s too bad the Chairmen couldn’t have stayed with their initial instincts. The County Chairmen as a group have much more credibility and power now than the State Central Committee retains. No matter how much anyone loves Jim Edgar – he’s clearly doing our Party a disservice by vacillating so long. He needs to fish or cut bait, and the County Chairmen could be key.

Here’s hoping that each calls him individually.

**MOST MISLEADING SPIN OF THE DAY** – Once again, the winner is the **State Central Committee**. **Chairman Andy McKenna** presented an internal ethics policy to the members of the State Central Committee for passage.

Passage was assumed to be a done deal for Thursday’s meeting. The policy contains pretty basic stuff, mostly about disclosing financial interests to an internal group of fellow Committeemen. All well and good, but a bit of a misdirection, as complaints about the job the Central Committee has been doing have never been centered on the amount of money they make, or from whom. An exception of course is with respect to Bob Kjellander, the National Committeeman. But the (See page 5)

# State fair report, continued from page 4

new policy specifically doesn't apply to him! McKenna said that Big Bob has agreed to "voluntarily" comply with the policy. But who knows what that means.

The policy also has groundbreaking reforms like this one "A Member shall not engage in any activity or transaction that at the time of the activity is prohibited by any law."

So the Committee is pledging to comply with actual laws already on the books. Well, we should accept progress wherever we can find it.

Despite the window-dressing nature of the new policy, it still didn't pass. **Committeeman Skip Saviano** (of stall SB600 fame) threw a wrench in the works by asking for more time for him to review. But rather than simply tabling the policy until a later date and telling the truth about what happened, **Committeeman Bill Dam** was worried about getting bad press (reporters and cameras from much of the Chicago media were in the room).

Dam suggested they pass the preliminary draft. So that's what happened, even though no one could think of a case where a governing board had ever passed a draft. That's why it's called a "draft" afterall. When you pass it, it's supposed to be in force. But not here.

So now the State Party is making everyone believe that it always intended to provide more time for input on the policy from all Republicans. Well that sounds nice – but it's not an honest account of what happened. The original plan was to adopt the policy internally on Thursday with no input from Republicans.

**MOST RELIEVED POLITICIAN** – Sadly, this one goes to Democrat Governor Rod Blagojevich. The IL GOP blew a wonderful opportunity to turn a corner last Thursday, and to become a competitive force next year.

Our Party could have united under a banner of renewal, and we could have rid ourselves of the biggest self-dealer out there, and a huge impediment to victory – Bob Kjellander. Our IL GOP could have stopped spinning its wheels and actually done something to energize Republicans. Our old leaders could have done their job.

Instead, the same people who wore out their welcome long ago attack the one man who did have the courage to say the obvious, Jim Oberweis.

The message from Thursday was that every Republican should "unify" under the Old Guard's hypocrisy. We're all supposed to get out there and throw mud at Blagojevich for "pay to play" even while these same few tell us to shut-up about "our side's" poster boy for the

practice.

**Blagojevich, the Madigans and Mayor Daley** must be having a good laugh right about now. They recognize that rank-and-file Republicans are for the most part a lot smarter than most of our leadership. And they also know that most Republicans won't play along when hypocrisy is demanded from the political class. The Chicago Democrats know that Republicans would just rather stay home.

As long as our own "leadership" is allowed to do the Democrats' job of dampening Republican enthusiasm and stifling rebuilding, the Chicago Democrats are free to plan their next acquisition in Illinois.

On the positive side, progress is being made as more Republicans learn about what's going on, and step-up. Bob Kjellander is going to go. The writing's on the wall, and even **House Minority Leader Tom Cross** has jumped on the bandwagon to say the obvious. The fact that most of the current 19 members of the State Central Committee have decided to forfeit their chance to have a role in helping our Party really doesn't matter. They'll simply become an insignificant footnote from a dark page in our Party's history.

(I should note that the newest Central Committee member Brad Cole, from downstate Carbondale, gets a pass. Thursday was his first meeting, after just being elected to fill a vacancy. At 33, Brad is the youngest member of the Central Committee - much younger by far than the average member. Brad seems like a good man, and we'll keep high hopes for him.)

Most of you obviously couldn't be in Springfield last week. But I think you deserve an honest account of what's going on. This is your Party afterall. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or comments. **O**

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## Legislative update from page 6

former spouse to be eligible for a portion of his or her former spouse's death benefits.

**Hospitals (HB 1350)** – Requires hospitals to report accidents involving children younger than 18 to the trauma registry when the accident involves a motor vehicle or the power window of a motor vehicle.

**Military bases (SB 1354)** – Creates a Committee to coordinate the State's activities and to act as a communications center for issues relating to military base closures.

**Bilingual students (HB 678)** – Allows the time allotted to take State tests to be extended for students who are in a transitional bilingual program. **O**

# Roeser Fails to Make Case in Column

by **Dave Diersen**  
www.gopillinois.com

In two of his earlier columns, Tom Roeser suggested that Bob Kjellander should quit as the Illinois GOP National Committeeman. Surprisingly, if not shockingly, in his August 27 Chicago Sun-Times column (<http://www.suntimes.com/output/roeser/cst-edt-roes27.html>) titled, "Attacks replace ideas in GOP infighting," Roeser reversed his position.

Based on his August 27 column, as I understand it, Tom Roeser's reasons for his reversal are as follows:

- the news media covered Kjellander too closely during August and especially during the State Fair,
- GOP gubernatorial candidates should only speak about "state issues" during the State Fair,
- Oberweis called for Kjellander to resign during the State Fair,
- Gidwitz has criticized Kjellander but nevertheless "hugged him" during the State Fair,
- Other GOP gubernatorial candidates have called for Kjellander to resign,
- LaHood has not called for Kjellander to resign,
- Calls for Kjellander to resign from GOP gubernatorial candidates may have prompted LaHood to not run for governor,
- "Kjellander has done nothing illegal,"
- Kjellander "is not accused of doing anything illegal,"
- Kjellander's critics are envious of the "hefty fees" he earned in the "free market,"
- Kjellander's critics expect too much of Kjellander,
- Some of Kjellander's critics had wealthy parents,
- people who have called for Kjellander to resign are "single-issue-fixated Republicans,"

- people who have called for Kjellander to resign have substituted "reasoned thought" with "unrelenting bitterness,"
- Tom Roeser does not know Kjellander well, but he knows Karl Rove well, Rove is an outstanding strategist, and Rove has affirmed his support Kjellander,
- According to Rove, Rove and Bush trust Kjellander, and
- Kjellander was recently promoted to Treasurer of the Republican National Committee.

Many would argue that the above reasons do not justify Roeser's reversal, neither individually or in total. To justify his reversal, Roeser should cite each of the specific facts that he relied on when he suggested that Kjellander resign, and Roeser should show why he misconstrued those facts or how those facts have been proven to be false.

Otherwise, it looks like Roeser believes that people should be supported if the news media follows them too closely, if they have critics, if they have at least on critic who appears to be hypocritical, if certain powerful people are not critical of them, if being critical of them causes problems, if they have not been found guilty of a crime, if they have not been accused of a crime, if their critics have been demonized as being envious, if their critics have been demonized as expecting too much, if their critics had wealthy parents, if their critics have been demonized as being "single-issue-fixated Republicans," if their critics have been demonized as people who substitute "reasoned thought" with "unrelenting bitterness," if they have smart powerful people who support and trust them, and/or if they have been recently promoted. **O**

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## Legislative update from page 8

loophole that allowed attorneys who are appointed to defend death cases to bill the state excessive sums of money.

Sex offenders (**HB 712**) – Requires a parent who plans to marry a sex offender to tell the other parent of their children.

Elections (**HB 1968**) – Requires public colleges to post electronic voter registration forms.

Former spouses (**SB 1446**) – Allows a (**See page 5**)

**TAPROOT's Next  
Breakfast Meeting  
*Brien Sheahan, Chairman*  
*DuPage Young Republicans***

**Saturday, September 17, 2005**

8:00 am, the talk starts at 8:30 am  
Old Country Buffet, 551 East Roosevelt Rd., Lombard (630-916-8808),  
in the High Point Shopping Center, south side of Roosevelt Rd.,  
about 5 stop-lights west of Route 83.

**TAPROOT Christmas Party.....December 11, 2005**

TAPROOT Trumpet

Volume 39 Number 4, Sept. 2005

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# Peter Roskam's Office Provides State Legislative Update

## SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW: Aug. 22-26, 2005

Springfield, IL – Long-awaited medical malpractice reforms, financial protections for military personnel and their families and tougher graduation requirements for high school students are among the bills signed into law last week, according to Senator Peter Roskam (R-Wheaton).

Senator Roskam says Senate Republicans have been fighting for more than two years to protect citizens' access to quality health care, and the new medical malpractice reform should help keep doctors from leaving the state.

Signed into law Aug. 25, Senate Bill 475 takes effect immediately and implements a number of medical, insurance and legal reforms, and caps non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits at \$500,000 for doctors and \$1 million for hospitals.

Other provisions of the agreement will:

- \* Raise the standards that medical malpractice lawsuits must meet before moving forward, as a means of preventing frivolous lawsuits;
- \* Allow doctors to apologize to patients without those statements being used against them legally;
- \* Enhance competition in the medical malpractice insurance market;
- \* Increase the number of medical investigators and coordinators;
- \* Create a Web site where patients can access information about Illinois physicians and any medical malpractice lawsuits that have been filed against them.

In other news, Illinois residents serving on active military

duty overseas, and their families back home, will have fewer day-to-day financial worries thanks to a new law signed into law Aug. 22.

A Senate Republican initiative known as the Illinois Patriot Plan, Senate Bill 2060 provides financial protections for members of the United States armed services or reserve forces, Illinois National Guard members who are deployed on active duty, or spouses. The protections address cell phone contracts, life insurance policies, gas/electric assistance, rent assistance, credit interest and finance charges, and motor vehicle leases. Senate Bill 2060 has an immediate effective date.

Finally, high school students will now have to take more core education classes, under legislation signed Aug. 24. Senate Bill 575 raises High School graduation requirements beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, specifically requiring more math and writing courses. The high school reform package requires students to take four years of English instead of three; three years of math instead of two; two years of science instead of one; and two writing-intensive classes.

Other legislation signed during the week of Aug. 22-26 includes:

Long-term care (**HB 2531**) – Requires nursing home administrators to conduct criminal background checks on potential employees who have contact with residents.

Child allergies (**HB 991**) – Requires a recreational camp to allow a child with severe, potentially life-threatening allergies to possess and use an epinephrine auto-injector or inhaler.

Death penalty fund (**SB 2082**) – Closes a (See page 6)

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