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A Message from President John Watch

ARE WE RELEVANT?

After the losses in the 2012 Presidential, Congressional and Statewide races, many Republicans offered me and others their personal views on why the Republicans performed so poorly. Some of these positions may be considered extremist by many, some moderate by others. But through all of the discussions one key phrase just kept surfacing and frankly we must examine it: are we relevant?

An individual who I respect for his ideological beliefs and the ability to communicate them to others offered some analogies which we may draw upon. A particular base model of car or a university core curriculum were two analogies that Kevin Ryan tried to make to the GOP's founding ideas. But as I thought about the comparison, I began to realize why we may not be relevant. There are more than car clubs and alumni associations to join. There are local civic groups, such as the Knights of Columbus or Lions Club, as well as various sports programs like CYO or Bayside Little League, just to identify a few.

And this is when I began to realize that relevance is something far greater, and far deeper. Relevance is a sense of belonging, participating and accomplishing different tasks through an organization or multiple organizations. Relevance becomes a sense of Community, caring enough to volunteer your valuable time to accomplish a specific task for your community. That task can be coaching a sports team, being a civic leader

or being a member of a political organization.

So relevance is what we want to make of something and this is where the controversy begins. Republicans feel less and less relevant. We lack a strong leadership at the county level and turn to clubs to have a sense of purpose, of belonging. Candidates such as Joe Concannon, Dan Halloran, and Phil Gim were all on the ballot in 2012 to make a point. Despite the lack of support from a centralized and functional party apparatus, they chose to be relevant.

Individuals such as Kevin and Amanda Ryan became involved in the Club they knew nothing about, because they chose to be relevant. And the names continue, with active citizens like Elio Forcina, Devon O'Connor and Peter Zuccarello who have pledged to support and assist Dan Halloran in his bid for re-election in the 19th Council District.

Again, the word relevant is one of choice, not entitlement. And there are individuals such as Sal Bacarella and Dennis Ring who have actively supported the NEQRC club with business development initiatives. And most importantly, we have our Board of Governors made up of so many individuals whose combined experience in the political world would exceed 400 years-individual who never had to choose to be relevant, because from an early age they made themselves relevant!

As Dennis Ring would now say, "Get to your point!" With only 50% of the population being registered voters, only 50% of the people choose to be relevant. About 105 million people voted in 2012 for President. Republicans did well in many areas and where we did not do well was a matter of the desire to be relevant. We at the NEQRC have had the honor and privilege to obtain the wise words from Joan Vogt and Maria Warhola. We have been exposed to the organizational efforts of Phil Plasencia, Dennis Saffran and Alan Laufer, all because they got involved years ago and have remained involved. Past Presidents Roy Taibta, Shelia Peralta and Janet Malone all kept the club going through difficult times. Every single person, and more that I have not mentioned, chose to be relevant and that is what I am asking all of our new members and Republicans who are not members yet:

Are you going to disappear into obscurity with those who think entitlement is a "right" or are you going to become involved via email, social media or at our meetings by choosing to be relevant!

We all do not need to agree, but we all must choose to be relevant!

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A Fresh Start in a New Year By Greg Mitchell, President, St. John's University College Republicans

Election night was a difficult night for us. We had our time invested in it. We had our future invested in it. We had our hearts invested in it. We may have left that night with our heads down but there was so much we should be proud of. We should be proud that we rallied behind our candidate; supported him, campaigned for him and voted for him. We should be proud that local candidates took the initiative and invested their time to try to make a difference. We should be proud that this Northeast Queens Republican Club came together in strength and unity to support our candidates. Unfortunately it all did not pan out the way we wanted, but we should NOT call it quits and go home. We lost an election, but it is not over for us.

This country still belongs to us. Our future is still in our hands. We are still blessed to live in a democratic system. It was a tough night for we who believe in fiscal responsibility, small government and self reliance. It was tough but its not the end.

We are strong and resilient and we will come out of this stronger; as a party and as a group.

Our hope for the future is that we stay involved and stay passionate about our beliefs. We want more people to get involved and to open their eyes. We are some of the people who do follow all the issues and think critically but there are so many more people that must educate themselves on the issues of the day and make informed decisions. They have to make the decisions as to the leaders they want, the economic policies they want, the government they want and the America they want. Of course we want America to succeed and prosper, however after the next four years of an Obama Presidency, I believe that people will 100% realize that the current path is not feasible. They will open their eyes. They will make that decision and make the right vote.

America must come together to make the tough decisions ahead of us and to get America back on the path to prosperity.

We must come together to save America. My generation is the future of this country. We are the leaders of tomorrow. I am confident that we will see a boom in participation from young people in the election process in the coming years. We have to. Our future is at stake and we must right the ship and get America prospering again.

The road ahead will be difficult and daunting, but with great challenge comes great opportunity. After all, we are Americans – and we never give up. We always rise to the occasion. We will rise to the occasion and we will prevail. We lost this election, but we still believe in our principles. We still believe in America and her greatness and nothing can take that away from us.

After an exhausting year, I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. May God continue to bless us and may he continue to bless the United States of America.

JOIN THE NEQRC

The NEQRC exists because civic-minded people like you choose to get involved by becoming active members and helping spread the message. We need the assistance of members, not only at our monthly meetings but to be active financially. Your dues and contributions will allow us to reach out to more fellow Republicans.

We strive to reach out to all Republicans who would like to have a voice in government, including business leaders and diverse ethnic groups. Most importantly, we seek the involvement of young republicans, as they are the future of the GOP.

Please submit your membership information to [Warren Scullin](#) or [John Watch](#).

We fully understand current financial conditions and hope you will consider one of the following options for dues:

Voting members: \$25 per annum

Young Republicans (under 25): free first year, \$10 per annum up to 25

Receive Newsletter and Meeting Notices: \$10 per annum

To support the NEQRC by becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact [Sal Bacarella](#).

Please provide:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____





President

John Watch

Vice Presidents:

- 1st: Roy Tabita
- 2nd: Dennis Saffran
- 3rd: Alan Laufer

Treasurer:

Joan Cassidy



Corresponding Secretary:

Amanda Ryan

Recording Secretary:

Angela Fristachi

Membership Chair:

Warren Scullin

General Secretary:

Kevin Ryan

Sgts. At Arms:

- Anthony Ramos
- Rabbi M. Pomerantz



Board of Governors:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Justin Alick | Larry Warsaw |
| Sal Bacarella | Elio Forcina |
| Joann DeMartino | Hon. Frank Padavan |
| Gregory Mitchell | Sheila Peralta |
| Philip Plasencia | Joan Vogt (District Leader 27 th (AD)) |
| Barbara Tabita | Hank Yeh |

Executive Member:

Janet Malone





Calendar

Winter/Spring 2013

Meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month at:

Clearview Golf Course
202-12 Willets Point Blvd
8:00pm meeting start (7:30pm coffee)

January 27: Inauguration of Officers and Special Guest Speaker

February 19: Speaker Mayor Candidate George McDonald

March 20: March Madness Fundraiser for Councilman Dan Halloran

March 23: Family Easter Egg Hunt

April 17: Civic Conference Night: Leaders from Various Civics will be on hand to discuss issues

May 15: Young Republican Night and Petition Challenge

June 19: Summer Barbecue- Beer and Hamburger night for all members (free event)

September 18: Election Season Begins, Panel of Members to Debate Citywide Issues

October 16: Final Push- Organizational Meeting and Candidate Meeting to discuss final three weeks of Election

October 26/27: 5th Annual Halloween Event at Bowne Park sponsored by Garden Works

November 20: Presentation of 2014 Officers and Election Recap with a Special Thanksgiving Treat

December 14: Breakfast with Santa

December 18: Annual Christmas Party



At our Annual Club Christmas Party, we were joined by Republican Mayoral hopeful George McDonald.

George McDonald has dedicated his life to serving New York City and the people who call it home. Through a nearly 30-year career that exemplifies the power of combining business experience and public service, McDonald has helped to transform the streets of New York and improved the lives of hundreds of thousands.

After two successful decades as an apparel industry executive, he has spent the last 27 years employing innovative business models to create jobs and economic opportunities for low-income New Yorkers. As Founder and President of The Doe Fund, one of the country's most celebrated nonprofit organizations, McDonald has proven that providing paid work opportunities to individuals can transform their lives for the better.

Join us on Facebook:

[Northeast Queens Republican Club 2012](#)

Follow us on Twitter [@NEQRepublicans](#)

Visit our blog:

<http://northeastqueensgop.wordpress.com/>

Council Member Halloran's Office Reaches Milestone in Constituent Services

The District Office of New York City Council Member Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) entered its 8,000th Constituent Services case last week, marking a milestone in the Whitestone office's service to local residents.

Even before beginning constituent case #8,000, Halloran's office has been consistently ranked #1 citywide in Constituent Services from the time Halloran took office in January 2010. Constituent issues are tracked by a database initiative called CouncilStat, which documents and tracks specific constituent inquiries in the Council. CouncilStat tracks the inquiries that are made to the office, whether it be by email, phone, or in person. The inquiries are

then entered into the system and staff members can track and follow-up on cases.

The 8,000 cases include individual inquiries, funding requests, and petitions against the closure of fire houses and the elimination of other important City services. The system tracks most, but not all, phone calls and walk-ins handled by office staff meaning that the actual number is over 8000. Even so, the documented CSTAT cases average about 2,666 cases per year, or roughly 222 cases per month

Halloran commented, "I'm very proud of our ranking and record, which shows our commitment to our constituents. My staff and I take our service to this District very

seriously and always do our best to obtain the best information and the most complete response to any question or concern raised by a constituent. I thank my staff, especially because I know our commitment will remain strong in the New Year."

Halloran's Chief of Staff Chrissy Voskerichian said, "Without our excellent staff, this would not be possible. Some cases are easy and get resolved quickly, while others take some time. But everyone puts in a lot of time, effort and care. Our #1 ranking is a testament to the dedication of both Council Member Halloran and his staff. They work tirelessly and patiently to help each and every constituent who contacts our office. We are merely doing what we should."

