



# News & Views

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The Little White Schoolhouse sits next to the former Marine Credit Union building, next to a car dealership and other commercial entities. The move, which was made April 17th, resulted in loss of the National Historic Site designation, which will ultimately result in the loss of National Landmark Status.

Photo courtesy of Tonya Alling

## May 25th Spirit Rally in Ripon to Focus on the Little White Schoolhouse, Birthplace of the GOP

By Timothy Bachleitner, Republican Party of Fond du Lac County

It still feels surreal — almost like a terrible nightmare or an elaborate prank. As the dust settles, we are confronted with the harsh reality that the new site of the Little White Schoolhouse (LWSH), which was deemed inappropriate by the National Park Service, may become its permanent resting place.

The local community bears the sting of this decision, and it seems unlikely that the pain will ever fade. It's not just the fact that the new location is situated next to a burger joint, a car dealership, and a wastewater treatment plant; it's also the series of events that led us here.

Through persistent grassroots investigations and numerous open records requests, we have uncovered a long trail of manipulation, conflicts of interest, betrayal, and a sheer lack of common sense and decency. We are confident that the LWSH, which has become a symbol of the Republican Party's foundation, despite its current distress, serves as a powerful reflection of the current state of our political world. That's why Republicans, Independents, and even some Democrats are rallying behind the LWSH.

A team of highly-skilled individuals has been assembled to rescue the LWSH from this disgraceful act. Our strategies are innovative and we believe they will be effective. Here at the Republican Party of Fond du Lac County, we are honored to be at the forefront of this endeavor.

Join us at our Spirit Rally on May 25th, where we will ignite your passion for our nation, its rich history and our promising future. We will meet at the American Legion, 113 E. Fond du Lac St., Ripon. The doors will open at 6 pm with the meeting to begin promptly at 6:30 pm. Note that this meeting is for members or their guests and uninvited persons may be asked to leave.

We have a lineup of captivating presentations that will address all your questions and provide practical ideas on what can be done while we patiently await the correction of this error.

While in Ripon, you will have the opportunity to take a short drive and witness firsthand the relocation of the LWSH from its former resting place in the beautiful historic district of Ripon to its new location in a commercial district.

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“A bend in the road is not the end of the road...  
unless you fail to make the turn.” — Helen Keller



Chairman Timothy Bachleitner is embraced by past-Chairman and current Waupun Mayor Rohn Bishop at the March Spirit Rally.

Recently, I had the privilege of being interviewed by David Siders, a correspondent for *Politico*, which covers politics in the U.S. and internationally. He traveled from California to investigate the political landscape of Wisconsin.

I am proud to share that I had the opportunity to showcase the strength and solidarity we experience here in Fond du Lac County. I emphasized that despite our many differences, as Republicans, we have managed to find common ground, unite, and work together while enjoying each other's company along the way.

The adversaries of everything we hold dear and cherish about our country yearn for nothing more than to see us divided and in conflict with one another. They thrive on our inability to constructively address our disagreements and lack a broad perspective that enables us to set reasonable strategies for advancing Republican ideals and principles.

Being the chairman of such an outstanding group of conservative individuals is an immense honor. I deeply appreciate our unique perspectives and embrace the diversity within our ranks. By continuing in the spirit of humility, we will ensure that Fond du Lac County remains a land where future generations can thrive and flourish.

## Representatives O'Connor & Schraa Write Letter to Chamber Regarding Little White Schoolhouse

By Representatives Jerry O'Connor and Michael Schraa, Wisconsin State Assembly

*Editor's note: Representatives Jerry O'Connor and Michael Schraa recently wrote to the Ripon Chamber of Commerce regarding moving the Little White Schoolhouse, Birthplace of the Republican Party, to a location in a commercial district on the west side of Ripon, which resulted in the loss of national historic designations. The letter follows:*

As Representatives of the Wisconsin State Assembly, we are deeply disturbed by the manner in which the historically significant "Little White School House," the building that represents the founding of the National Republican Party, was moved from its former location.

The Ripon Chamber of Commerce accepted stewardship of this important structure and failed in its responsibilities to maintain the building's place on the National Register of Historic Places.

We believe it is fair to say that your Chamber predecessors would be shocked at the outcome of this move.

When we pull up the Ripon Chamber website today, the building is shown in its previously beautiful setting. This was a treasure Ripon and Wisconsin could be proud of and that will not be true in the location it was moved to.

We find no reasonable explanation as to why the Ripon Chamber Leadership team did not wait on the process of a formal review with the National Park Service before proceeding with the removal of the building from its former site. Because of this haste, this building has lost important historical recognition.

In pursuing this further, we contacted the Wisconsin Historical Society and received this language they passed on from the National Park Service:

*"Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Little White Schoolhouse, in Ripon, Wisconsin. It has come to our attention that the building has been recently moved from the location where it has stood for decades. The National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program are two separate programs within the Park National Service.*

*National Register regulations provide that a National Register-listed building moved without approval by the Keeper of the National Register is automatically removed from the National Register of Historic Places.*

*Because the NHL Program has separate regulations, the withdrawal of the Little White Schoolhouse's NHL designation requires further review. As of today, the Little White Schoolhouse retains its NHL designation."*

Regardless of the intentions of the Chamber, the outcome of its actions is frankly unfathomable. The negative impact far exceeds Ripon's borders.

We are not contesting the decision to move the building. It is more a matter that decisions were made that resulted in this building being moved to a location that did not meet the criteria it previously held within the National Register of Historic Places.



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It is our opinion that the Ripon Chamber of Commerce should accept full and direct responsibility for this outcome.

Moreover, we would like to know that the Chamber will commit to the people of Ripon, the residents of Wisconsin, and to the American people, that they will take every step necessary to remedy this situation.

The stated goal of the Chamber should include commitments to position this building to regain its former recognition status by the National Park Service, the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks.

We look forward to a response about how our request is addressed by the Chamber membership and what steps the Chamber will make toward restoring and preserving the national recognition of "The Little White School House" in Ripon, Wisconsin.

Sincerely Yours,

Representative Jerry L. O'Connor  
52nd Assembly District

Representative Michael Schraa  
53rd Assembly District

# 2023 RPW

## RED TO THE ROOTS

### ★★ State Convention ★★

## GOP State Convention to be Held June 16th-18th at La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin

By Tonya Alling, Republican Party of Fond du Lac County

Official Call to the 2023 Republican Party of Wisconsin State Convention

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE IS HEREBY CALLED, by action of the State Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, meeting on the tenth day of December 2022, a STATE CONVENTION, as provided in Article VIII of the Constitution of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, to be held at the La Crosse Center at 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, 2023, for the purpose of transacting the following business:

1. To promulgate and adopt reports from the committees on Credentials, Rules, Platform, and Resolutions.
2. To hear reports from Party leaders, elected officials, and other invited speakers.
3. To transact any other business that may be necessary to gain the objectives of the Republican Party of Wisconsin.

This CALL TO CONVENTION was unanimously passed at the December 10, 2022, meeting of the State Executive Committee held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The theme of the 2023 RPW State Convention is "Red to the Roots." Attend the convention and touch up your Republican roots!

With a few exceptions, if you were a member of the Republican Party of Fond du Lac County as of February 16th, you are one of our 144 registered delegates.

Saturday's luncheon is sure to be a highlight. The FDLGOP has been nominated to receive many awards. Please join us as the accomplishments of our volunteers and county party will be recognized and celebrated.

On-site registration is available but hotel rooms will likely sell out, so book yours now. Registration fees are \$75, plus an additional expense for plated meals. Note that many people choose to attend the convention only on Saturday. You are not required to participate all three days. Contact treasurer@fdlgop.com or 920.229.5531 for details.

### CONVENTION SCHEDULE:

#### Friday, June 16th

- 1 pm-4 pm: Grassroots Workshops
- 4 pm-8 pm: Registration
- 6 pm-8 pm: WFRW God Bless America Dinner
- 8 pm-11 pm: Hospitality Suites

#### Saturday, June 17th

- 7:30 am-3 pm: Registration
- 9-11:30 am: Morning Convention Session
- 11:30 am-1:30 pm: Awards Luncheon
- 1:30-5:30 pm: Afternoon Convention Session
- 6-10 pm: Hospitality Suites

Note that attendees should make their own arrangements for dinner on Saturday; the RPW is not planning a meal.

#### Sunday, June 18th

- 8:30-10:30 am: Prayer Breakfast

We look forward to seeing you in La Crosse!

Bring what you've got and put it in the pot because – as the "Stone Soup" folk tale teaches us – every little bit makes the big pot better. Volunteers and sponsors will be recognized on the website or in the newsletter.

### Share Your Talents

#### Videographer

Help create video content for the website and social media.

#### Singer

Every Spirit Rally opens with an inspirational song. If you love to sing, let us know!

#### Speaker

Do you have an idea for a monthly meeting program? Contact editor@fdlgop.com.

#### County Coordinator

We are seeking a coordinator for the 52nd Assembly District. If you have a knack for communication and planning, we need a volunteer whose primary responsibility, working with the executive team, will be to help coordinate meetings and plan events to be held in Fond du Lac.

### Share Your Treasure

To make a contribution, please contact treasurer Tonya Alling at treasurer@fdlgop.com or 920.229.5531. Thank you!

#### Spirit Rally Sponsor ... \$200

Covers the cost of mailing a reminder, reserving the venue and serving a light meal.

#### Golf Scramble Sponsors

The September 26th golf scramble will afford you the opportunity to sponsor a hole, the golf carts, the beverage cart, drink tickets, or to donate a raffle prize. Details will be available on our website soon!

#### Furnace Fund

Nearly \$5,000 is needed to install a new furnace at FDLGOP headquarters. A generous donor has offered \$2,000 in matching funds. Will you please contribute?





PO Box 665 • Fond du Lac WI 54936

## Please Join Us!

May 25 . . . Ripon American Legion  
113 E. Fond du Lac St., Ripon  
Doors open 6:00; Meeting at 6:30

July 27 . . . FDL American Legion  
500 Fond du Lac Ave., FDL  
Doors open 6:30; Meeting at 7:00

*Arrive early to help serve a free  
veterans meal from 4:00 to 7:00.  
Or, join us for dinner. Meal cost  
for non-veterans is \$10.*

## GOP in Office

### U.S. Senator

Ron Johnson . . . . . 920.276.7282

### U.S. Representative

Glenn Grothman . . . . 920.907.0624

### County Officials

#### Sheriff

Ryan Waldschmidt . . 920.929.3372

#### County Clerk

Lisa Freiberg . . . . . 920.929.3000

#### Clerk of Courts

Ramona Geib . . . . . 920.929.3040

#### County Treasurer

Brenda Schneider . . . 920.929.3010

#### District Attorney

Eric Toney . . . . . 920.929.3048

#### Register of Deeds

James M. Krebs . . . . 920.929.3239

### State Senators

#### 14th District

Joan Ballweg . . . . . 608.266.0751

#### 18th District

Dan Feyen . . . . . 608.266.5300

#### 20th District

Duey Stroebel . . . . . 608.266.7513

### State Representatives

#### 42nd District

Jon Plumer . . . . . 608.266.3404

#### 52nd District

Jerry O'Connor . . . . 920.948.4207

#### 53rd District

Michael Schraa . . . . 608.267.7990

#### 59th District

Ty Bodden . . . . . 920.948.5076

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## Save the Date!

## 9-Hole Golf Scramble and Fundraising Dinner Planned for Tuesday, September 26th in Waupun

The executive committee is excited to announce plans for a fundraising golf scramble and dinner, to be held on Tuesday, September 26th at the Rock Golf Club in Waupun. The 9-hole four-person scramble will begin at 2:30 pm with a shotgun start followed by dinner at 6 pm.

The entry fee (which the committee is still pondering) will include 9 holes with cart, an exceptional dinner and hole event prizes. Those who choose not to golf are encouraged to attend the fundraising dinner which will feature an engaging guest speaker. Basket raffle tickets will be available. Proceeds from the event will help balance the 2023 budget and hopefully allow for installation of a new furnace at 76 S. Macy Street.

Republican Party of Fond du Lac County member Russ Ratkowski approached Chairman Timothy Bachleitner with the golf scramble idea after attending the March Spirit Rally, during which the 2023 budget – which included more than \$5,000 of yet-to-be-raised funds to balance the budget – was presented.

At a May 4th committee meeting, ideas for a successful fundraising event were discussed and members voted to proceed with the golf event, to include a buffet dinner with a

special guest speaker to appeal to non-golfing members. The executive committee approved the proposed event on May 9th.

A delicious two-entree buffet will be available for non-golfers at a subsidized cost of \$15. To attract more attendees, a generous member is providing \$15 of the \$30 per person dinner cost, lowering the ticket price to \$15 (including gratuity). Chairman Bachleitner will invite a high profile speaker to draw a large crowd.

Additional income streams might include the sale of golf mulligans, bucket raffle tickets, hole and event sponsorships and possibly a major raffle with tickets sold throughout the summer and the drawing held at the September 26th event.

As plans develop, updates will be published in future issues of *News & Views*, on our website at [www.fdlgop.com](http://www.fdlgop.com) and at monthly meetings.

Many hands make light work! We are looking for volunteers to serve on the event planning committee. If you would like to help solicit raffle prizes, sponsorships or participants, or if you have a knack for planning a really fun party, we need you! Please email [treasurer@fdlgop.com](mailto:treasurer@fdlgop.com) or call 920.229.5531 to volunteer.

