

# PCRW Insider

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every month except June, July and December



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR  
FEBRUARY LUNCHEON  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012  
BARRACKS CATER INN  
11:30 AM  
LUNCH \$12.00

### MENU

CHICKEN PARMESAN, RICE, SALAD AND CAKE

PLEASE RSVP TO BERNADETTE SHEKLETON AT  
B.SHEKLETON@COMCAST.NET OR PHONE 686-2088  
BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: PCRW REPUBLICAN  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE STRAW POLL  
FEATURING LOCAL DELEGATES TO THE  
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

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Who  
is  
Your  
Pick?

Mitt Romney

After graduating from Brigham Young University in 1971, Mitt Romney earned dual degrees from Harvard Law and Harvard Business School. After working as a business consultant for several years, Mitt founded the investment firm Bain Capital in 1984. Under his leadership, Bain Capital helped to launch or rebuild hundreds of companies, including household names such as Staples, Domino's Pizza, and The Sports Authority.

Mitt was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 2002 when the state was in severe financial disarray. Mitt brought state spending under control, restructured and consolidated government programs, paring back where necessary and finding efficiencies throughout.

Facing a Democrat controlled state legislature, Mitt cast more than 800 vetoes as he brought conservative principles to state government. He cut red tape for small businesses, signed into law job-creating incentives, and fought hard to bring new businesses to the state. He eliminated a \$3 billion deficit without borrowing money or raising taxes. By 2007, at the end of Mitt's term, the state had accumulated a \$2 billion rainy day fund in its coffers. This stringent fiscal discipline provided an essential backdrop for economic recovery. When Mitt came into office, the state was losing jobs every month. When he left office, the economy was generating new jobs by the thousands.

Mitt is being represented by one of his Illinois alternate Delegates, Ryan Spain.

Rick Santorum

Rick Santorum is a former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990 at the age of 32, and from 1995 to 2007, served in the US Senate. In 2000, he was elected by his peers to the position of Senate Republican Conference Chairman.

Santorum's list of accomplishments and positions includes: exposing the Congressional Banking and Congressional Post Office scandals, supporting Welfare Reform, strongly opposed to Partial Birth Abortions, strong supporter of the "Born Alive Infants Protection Act," the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," and the "Combating Autism Act." Additionally, he fought for a balanced budget and a line item veto, proposed reforming entitlements, cutting spending and developed a "spendometer" that added up the cost of Democrat amendments to spending bills.

Rick is being represented today by one of his Illinois campaign volunteers: Shelia Duvall

Newt Gingrich

Newt Gingrich is the architect of the "Contract with America" that led the Republican Party to victory in 1994 by capturing the majority in the U.S. House for the first time in forty years. Under Newt's leadership, Congress passed the first balanced budget in a generation, leading to the repayment of over \$400 billion in debt. Congress also cut taxes for the first time in sixteen years and reformed welfare, leading to over sixty percent of welfare recipients either getting a job or going to school. In addition, the Congress restored funding to strengthen our defense and intelligence capabilities, an action later lauded by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Newt studied History, receiving his Bachelor's degree from Emory University and Master's and Doctorate in Modern European History from Tulane University. Before his election to Congress in 1978, Newt taught History and Environmental Studies at West Georgia College for eight years. He represented Georgia in Congress for twenty years, including four years as Speaker of the House.

Newt is being represented by one of his Illinois Delegates, Mike Bigger.

Ron Paul

Ron Paul was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Gettysburg College and the Duke University School of Medicine, before proudly serving as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force during the 1960s. He and his wife Carol moved to Texas in 1968, where he began his medical practice in Brazoria County as a specialist in obstetrics/gynecology.

While serving in Congress, Ron was an advocate for sound monetary policy and an outspoken critic of the Federal Reserve's inflationary measures. He advocated for a return to a gold standard for our currency. He was an unwavering advocate of pro-life and pro-family values. Ron consistently voted to lower or abolish federal taxes, spending, and regulation, and used his House seat to actively promote the return of government to its proper constitutional levels. In 1984, he voluntarily relinquished his House seat and returned to his medical practice. Ron returned to Congress in 1997 to represent the 14th Congressional District.

Ron is being represented today by one of his Illinois Delegates, John Scrivner.

## January Program Recap: Brad Harding and Rudy Lewis

By MaryAlice Erickson



Brad Harding and Rudy Lewis were the speakers at the January luncheon. Both are running for the Peoria County Board. Brad is facing re-election while Rudy is seeking a first term. One additional Republican elected in 2012 will put the Peoria County Board at 9 members for each party. Three years ago it was 13-5 Democrat. Hard working Republican members and outstanding candidates have made the difference. Redistricting and excellent candidates this year could make a huge difference in County Board decisions.

Brad Harding, incumbent 16th District Republican, is a long time farmer and media personality who does his homework and is an outstanding communicator. Rudy Lewis, Republican candidate in the 17th District, is an entrepreneur and present Republican County Chairman who has managed in the private and public sector; this has given him a great background for government service having had to interact with all facets of government throughout his career.

Harding and Lewis are upbeat about Republican chances this fall.

Once again attendees at the PCRW lunch in January had the opportunity to hear the inside stories from Republican candidates. Key questions surrounded the County nursing home and the way decisions on budget and spending are made. Brad and Rudy made sometimes dull subjects lively, informative, and motivated volunteers to get involved in the local elections.

## NEWS AND NOTES

- Welcome to new member Allyson Oswald. We are glad to have you!
- Please keep Frank Hernandez, Associate Member in your prayers as he is recovering from a recent illness.
- Pat Sullivan can use some campaign help on Feb 13th at 4:30 at Water Street Solutions (corner of Water and Walnut St.). Appetizers and drinks will be served. Please let Karen Disharoon know if you plan to attend. Call 309-219-6390.
- Anyone who knows of a PCRW member who is sick and could use a get well card from PCRW, please let Bernadette Shekleton know. She can be reached at [b.shekleton@comcast.net](mailto:b.shekleton@comcast.net) or 309-686-2088.



*Please submit articles for the  
newsletter to  
Mary Sundermeyer at  
[mcsunder@aol.com](mailto:mcsunder@aol.com)*

## Interview with Chuck Weaver, Peoria City Council Member



### Please describe the office you hold and the District you represent.

I was elected to the position of At-Large-City Council Person for the City of Peoria. In that roll I join Mayor Ardis, four other “At-Large Councilpersons” and five “District Councilpersons” to make up the Peoria City Council.

### How have things been going for you your first year in office? Any surprises?

I am pleasantly surprised by the quality of our front line city staff. It is our processes that are a problem and I believe our City Manager will provide the guidance necessary to streamline our systems.

I am most frustrated by the magnitude of senseless crime and innocent bystanders impacted by the insanity. My most memorable example of that is the murder of eight year old Albert Billups. I do not remember ever having a point in my life where I felt helpless.

We all have times of difficulty that may last days, months or years but usually we know there is a solution and that we can implement that solution. For the weeks following Albert’s murder, I felt as a leader in our city, I had some piece of the responsibility for his death and was helpless to change the circumstance. The truth is that every institution in Albert’s life let him down and it is up to all of us to refuse to accept complacency in those institutions. We will only solve our crime problem if all of us get involved with the children in our city.

It is going to take a unified effort to stop “generational crime”. In the end it is about accountability of parents, churches, schools, social service agencies, and in the case of the city, properly staffing and training police. In the case of individual citizens I encourage mentoring. Fathers who are abandoning their homes are ruining our youth. Responsible men need to step up. I have a number of young people I am mentoring. It is one of the most rewarding things I have ever experienced. I encourage others to try mentoring as well.

### What are the most common concerns expressed to you by your constituency, and what have you done personally to address those issues?

Leadership is about seeing problems before they occur, capitalizing on opportunities and minimizing risk. If we are doing a good job we solve constituent problems before they happen. Most issues brought up by constituents are reactive in nature. Calls are not typically about the magnitude of the issue as much as they are about the impact a particular individual may feel. As city leaders it is our job to react to our citizens concerns. That is why I have made a commitment to return every call or email.

Some issues involve broader problems... to that end I work on four committees which address the major concerns of our city: Eric Turner and I meet with Neighborhood leaders at City Hall at 7:30am on the first Thursday of every month. We use that meeting to hear about major issues and get those issues addressed as quickly as possible. Any citizen interested in improving our community is invited. Eric and I also started a “Business Advocacy” committee. That committee meets at City Hall at 1:30 on the first Thursday of every month. Any business person is welcome to attend.

Mayor Ardis appointed Eric Turner, Ryan Spain and me to Dr. Lathan’s District 150 “Council for Continuous Improvement.” It is our goal to work with Dr. Lathan as she improves our school district. The future of our schools is the future of our city. Finally, I have a committee of five volunteers that help me with what I call “Leaders Change Peoria”. I donate my monthly City Council salary to help aggressive leaders make a difference in three ways. 1) Start up ideas that will impact young people in our core neighborhoods. An example of this is five lawn mowers we bought for Carl Cannon to use for his eighth graders to mow for senior citizens. 2) We will provide space, snacks and a professional leader to help not for profits with strategic planning. 3) We will help neighborhoods establish revolving funds or try new creative ideas to improve their neighborhoods. My cell is 360-4779 if anyone wants to learn more.

(continued on Page 5)

## Interview with Chuck Weaver (continued from pg. 4)

### What is your long-term vision for the future of the City of Peoria?

Peoria will be known as “business friendly” by 1/1/2015. We still have stabilized home values through fair but aggressive code enforcement and establishing a “land management function”, (using the positives of “Land Banking” that is done around the country but eliminating the negatives), at city hall to proactively deal with blight and infilling through redevelopment. A city and school district that works together to draw people to the city. Solving “generational crime” by demanding accountability. Our “Central Illinois Angels” will successfully bring non-service jobs to the city.

### Why do you think the COP tends to come up short when it comes to competition for business with East Peoria, and what can we do to change that?

I refuse to make it about “incentives”. As a business person, I make decisions based on the market. East Peoria is fortunate to have open land in the middle of “our” market. (Note: it is the middle of “our” market as much as “their” market.) They then contracted with a very effective developer to market that open land. You do not have to give away the farm to get development. I have done residential and commercial development without relying on city incentives. Our city does not reach out to developers well. I get contacted by the City of Morton on a regular basis about development ideas. I have asked numerous developers in Peoria if they get contacted by our city and the answer is no. I plan to work with Eric Turner and our business advocacy committee to fill that void.

### You having been the top vote-getter in the last City Council election, one has to wonder if you have plans to seek a higher political office. Care to share?

Age makes us less focused on personal advancement and more focused on the impact we can have on others. On a daily basis I am trying to balance the big picture issues I am responsible for as an office holder and the one on one impact my role allows me to have. I believe leaders need to focus more on the latter. I believe I can have a greater impact because of the office than I can have in the office. People can help people more than governments can help people. The voters determine where a leader will serve based on that leader’s effort and effectiveness.

### Do you have any advice to offer the average citizen who may be contemplating a run for political office.

If it is about you-don’t do it. If it is about the people you hope to lead, jump in with both feet and be prepared to make sacrifices you will never regret. I invite anyone that is interested in running for an office to sit down and talk about the ways in which they can get involved. We need to continue to build the Republican Party through young, intelligent, honest candidates.



Thanks  
to all  
who  
attended  
the  
January  
Lunch!



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309-256-1956



**"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!!**

PCRW is now on Facebook! If you have a Facebook profile, please type "Peoria County Republican Women" in the search field, then click "Like". Please help grow our page with your comments, links and photos!

Primary Elections Are Tuesday, March 20th

**US Representatives**

17th District  
Bobby Shilling  
www.reelectbobby.com

18th District  
Aaron Schock  
309-693-9393  
www.aaronschock.com

**IL State Senators**

37th District  
Darin LaHood  
309-740-2333  
www.darinlahood.com

46th District  
Pat Sullivan  
309-219-6390  
jtdktd2@gmail.com

**IL State Representatives**

73rd District  
David Leitch  
www.davidrleitch.org  
309-690-7373

91st District  
Mike Unes  
www.mikeunes.com  
309-699-UNES

**10th Judicial Circuit Judge**

Kate Goreman  
866-389-9211  
www.judgekategoreman.com

Matthew Hoppock  
Vote4Hoppock@frontier.com

**Peoria County**

State's Attorney  
Frank W. Ierulli  
309-999-3616

Recorder of Deeds  
Nancy K. Horton

Coroner  
Johnna Ingersoll

**County Board**

District 6 - Michael Emerson  
District 10 - Stephen M. Morris  
District 11 - Mary A. Ardapple  
District 12 - Robert E. Baietto  
District 13 - James T. Fennell  
District 14 - Brian J. Elsasser  
District 15 - Carol A. Trumpe  
District 16 - Brad E. Harding  
District 17 - Rudy Lewis  
District 18 - Paul E. Rosenbohm

**Early Voting**

Monday, February 27, 2012 through Thursday, March 15, 2012

CITY LOCATIONS	WEEKDAYS	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Election Commission 542 SW Adams (Corner of Walnut & Adams)	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9 am - 4 pm	9 am - 4 pm
Care & Treatment Board 2016 N. Knoxville (Corner of Knoxville & Frye)	10 am - 6 pm	9 am - 3 pm	
ICC North 5407 N. University (Between Glen & Northmoor)	10 am - 6 pm	9 am - 3 pm	
COUNTY LOCATIONS			
Peoria County Clerk's Office 324 Main St. Room 101	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	9 am - 12 pm	9 am - 12 pm
Various Locations and Dates	throughout the	County, Call	672-6070