



U.S. Congressman Jerry Moran (left) visited with Janene Schneider, vice-chairman of the Phillips County Republican Central Committee, prior to the meal and program at the Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic at the Hansen Plaza in Logan on Saturday. Ruth Lofgreen, Norton, (above) discussed law enforcement issues with Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline. — Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

# Republicans attend old-fashioned picnic in Logan

By DICK BOYD

Another large crowd attended the 26th annual Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic held Saturday in the Hansen Plaza in Logan. The annual event was scheduled to be held on the lawn but was moved inside due to threatening weather.

The picnic gives area residents the opportunity to listen to and visit with national, state and local GOP officials and enjoy a fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings.

Through the years, the picnic has drawn many Republican dignitaries, including former Sens. Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum, former Govs. Bill Graves and Mike Hayden and U.S. Senator Pat Roberts.

The fried chicken, baked beans, corn on the cob and watermelon were followed by the speeches.

"I have no greater passion than working to make Kansas the greatest place to live and raise a family," said Jerry Moran, Hays, U.S. Congressman from the Big First District, who is a regular attendee.

"I appreciate the opportunity you've given me to serve you."

"People are disgruntled about the drought, war, Katrina and energy problems."

"Can Jim Barnett win the governor's race? Yes, with your efforts."

Ron Freeman, Topeka, executive director of the Kansas Republican Party, was also present. "Our party was founded in 1854 with the belief that a great society and

strong nation are built by free and responsible citizens," he said.

"There is a dramatic difference in where Jim Barnett wants to take us and where Governor Sebelius wants to take us."

Kelly Arnold represented Republican governor candidate Jim Barnett, Emporia, who is an internal medicine physician.

"Leadership is the key in this race," she said. "Dr. Barnett wants to reduce the income tax, give a 10 percent tax credit for all businesses no matter the size and plans to make sure we properly fund education. He feels that the courts have too much power. Governor Sebelius wants driver's licenses for illegal immigrants and he does not agree."

Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline, Topeka, was also present. "We are fighting pedophiles who try to contact children," he said. "Four years ago, those convicted of child prostitution faced only probation. Since I have become attorney general, we have passed many laws to cause these solicitors to stay out of Kansas. We have had over 90 convictions of child predators."

"We got tough and serious and our children are now safer. I believe in severe, swift and certain consequences for those who will hurt others."

"I don't like the efforts of some trial attorneys to file frivolous lawsuits just to line their pockets." As an example, he said he is opposed to lawsuits blaming food chains

and producers for obesity.

Also attending the picnic was Lynn Jenkins, Topeka, Kansas State Treasurer. A sixth generation Kansan, she is a former state senator and representative.

"I'm always happy to be in Logan for the picnic," she said.

"I have the best job in the world. We are the state bank and we administer a lot of money each year."

"One part of our job is administering the unclaimed property law. We just returned \$11 million in unclaimed property and there is more."

"This money belongs to somebody. Check the Internet and help us get it returned."

"My office also administers the Learning Quest program which helps youths continue education after high school. Check the starting time of our next program on the web site."

"We are also cutting labor costs in our office with more electronic technology."

Ron Thornburgh, Topeka, Kansas Secretary of State, also spoke. He has been elected to his office three times and has won numerous awards, including being chosen president of the National Secretary of State organization.

"The kind of people we elect in Kansas makes a difference," he said. "It is our responsibility as elected officials to make a difference. I believe in the integrity and values of our office holders."

Also present was Dan Johnson, Hays, state representative and chairman of the agriculture com-

mittee, who made his tenth trip to the picnic. "My roots go back a long ways in Ellis County. My family has lived there since 1876," said Johnson. "One of our focuses on the agriculture committee is to alleviate the shortage of large animal veterinarians in Kansas. We are working on a loan plan where the loans could be paid off by working in Kansas."

"I was happy to see the education lawsuit dismissed."

John Faber, state representative from Brewster, said, "I still stand for the same things. They are family values and limited government."

Ralph Ostmeier, state senator from Grinnell, was also present. "We are in the minority in western

Kansas and must stick together to get things accomplished," he said.

Among the other dignitaries present were: Randy Duncan, Salina, First District Republican chairman; Sheila Frahm, Colby, executive director of the Kansas Community College Association and former U.S. Senator and Kansas Lieutenant Governor; John Miller, Norton, Norton County commissioner; Bill Elliott, Hill City, chief judge of the 17th Judicial District; Sally Cauble, Liberal, state board of education candidate; Clay Aurand, Courtland, House majority leader; Tim Huelskamp, Fowler, state senator; Deena Horst, Salina, state representative; Virginia Beemer, Oakley, state representative; Bob

Tomlinson, Topeka, representing Sandy Praeger, state insurance commissioner.

Lynn Clements, Logan, Phillips County Republican Central Committee chairman, led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Troy Buss, First Christian Church, Logan, gave the invocation.

Janene Schneider, Logan, vice-chairman of the Phillips County Central Committee, was the master of ceremonies. Schneider introduced the other members of the Central Committee: Judy Rowland, Phillipsburg, secretary and Linda McDowell, Agra, treasurer. Rowland is also Phillips County Treasurer and McDowell is Phillips County Clerk.

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