

A Name Synonymous with the Massachusetts Republican Party ... Larry Novak

by Lonnie Brennan

I thought it would be interesting to catch up with Larry Novak and share a bit of his legendary activist work with readers who may not know him, but might find inspiration from his more than 50 years of Republican activism.

Novak, a retired attorney, started working for candidates when he was 16 years old, supporting Republicans and working in the local Party headquarters. Larry is best described as tenacious, tough and shrewd - in anything he does - either in politics or in law.

First, his work for the Republican Party is legendary. He has awards all over his home that show how grateful Republican candidates and organizations have been to have his support. He holds the record as the longest-serving chairman of the Brockton Republican City Committee. He's the former vice chairman and treasurer of the Mass. Republican Party, and served as a Republican state committeeman from 1984 to 2009.

Approximately 18 months ago, Larry was recruited again to take the helm of the Brockton Republican City Committee in its darkest hours. In a Democrat-dominated city, the committee had suffered a decline, dipping to just 16 members on the ballot, and a reported \$67 in the trea-

Hanover raised \$407. Hanson raised \$15. Whitman, home to former Senate candidate Geoff Diehl, raised \$3,100.

It's a pretty amazing feat that the poorest and the most Democratic community in the Senate district (the 2nd Plymouth & Bristol) out-raised all of the other communities combined, a city where only 7% of residents are registered Republicans.

Most importantly, Novak is working on a plan to bring 5,000 unenrolled voters who used to be registered Republicans back to the Republican Party.

Novak's house, which is on the west side of Brockton, sits on an acre of manicured lawn. On the walls of his 10-room house sit his citations, one from the Massachusetts Senate which caught my attention recognized Novak's work for the Republican Party. This citation reads: "In recognition of your service and dedication to the Republican Party of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."



activity the Party creates, the more electable the Party becomes."

Novak has raised money for a diverse range of Republican candidates and committees, including but not limited to: Governor Weld, Governor Paul Cellucci, Treasurer Joe Malone, Congresswoman Margaret Heckler, Senator Edward Brooke, Arthur Chase, Peter Foran, Bill Sawyer, the Brockton Republican City Committee, the Mass. Republican



ing envelopes to running a campaign as a campaign manager for governor. He has assisted Republicans at all levels from city school committee to governor to president. He's a doer and not a talker. (Well, OK, he does talk, certainly to me, and at length on multiple occasions, but he

seat that's remained for the most part in Republican hands for the next 25 years. It is presently occupied by a Republican. Novak's common sense and dedication to constituent work has made this seat remain Republican in Brockton, one of only two seats that the Republican Party holds in the city. But Novak is most proud of a saying on the wall by Winston Churchill, and I quote: "A political party which goes down to defeat fighting will rise again from the ashes of defeat. A political party which surrenders its belief will disappear into the pages of history."

Time for a Republican Party Rebirth

Larry Novak believes that the Massachusetts Republican Party must in August fill all of the ward and town committee positions in Brockton and beyond. "By filling these seats, it encourages voters to see that the Party is organized and shows candidates that there is a support system or mechanism to help them if they decide to run. It shows the voters that the Republican Party should be taken seriously and is on the road to becoming a major force again," Novak said.

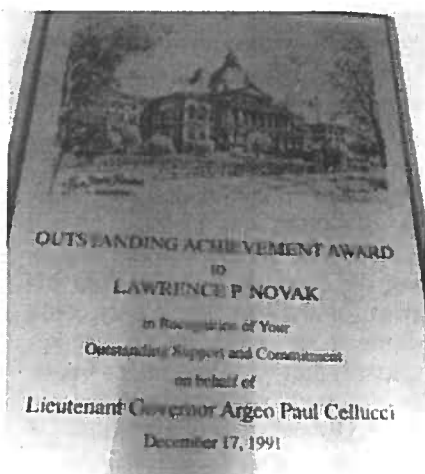
"I served with the legendary Ray Shamie, who was the chairman that rebuilt the Republican Party in the late '80s, early '90s, where 2,300 votes swung the other way to help the Republican Party," Novak said. "That model used by Ray Shamie, of filling the town committees and increasing the role of the activist helped us grow. While we almost captured the state Senate in 1990, we did, however win 16 or 17 seats and came very close in three or four others. We won two Governor Council seats. The model shows that the more

Party and the Mass. Republican Lawyers Association.

I asked Novak when he had time to practice law! He said he spends a lot of time on politics and has a good staff, a true and committed Republican.

According to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, Novak is the largest donor to Republican causes in the 2nd Plymouth District. He has donated over \$194,000 since 2002. Novak is always in motion. He's having a fundraiser for the Brockton Republican City Committee on June 19, 2019 at Thorny Lea Country Club in Brockton.

Most interesting, he's now writing a book on



walks the walk!) While at his home, I saw one of his old campaign slogans - Performance and Not Promises. That is a slogan that fits Larry Novak well.

In addition to serving as chair of the Brockton Republican City Committee, Novak has been doing a radio program on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 1530 AM radio (you can catch his streaming online if you're not in the area). It's one of the most talked-about Republican shows on the South Shore and snagged our newspaper's attention. On his radio program, Novak doesn't back away from the fact that he's a Republican. He continues to promote the Republican agenda. He's led the fight against Sanctuary Cities which is a hot issue in the city of Brockton. He opposes Sanctuary Cities and realizes that we must do more to dislodge radical left-wing Democrats from the City Council seats. It is a growing concern to him how the progres-

Larry Novak, continued page 16

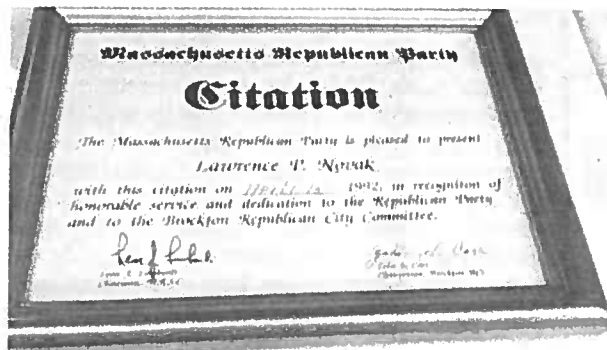


sury. Seldom did the committee even get a quorum to a meeting. Today, with Larry's stewardship, the committee has seen a rebirth, hosting a welcoming winter social (which I enjoyed speaking at and introducing the Boston Broadside to so many members), and today the committee stands at more than 120 members.

Every ward in the city of Brockton is organized thanks to Larry Novak. The committee leads in fundraising in the Senate district. In the totals for 2018, Brockton raised \$5,096. Easton raised \$0. East Bridgewater raised \$236. Halifax raised \$0.

Novak's house is adorned with pictures showing his work with former Republican presidents and Republican leaders. He was a close political ally of former Congresswoman Margaret Heckler who served as President Reagan's Secretary of Health and Human Services and Ambassador to Ireland. With regret, he noted that he was unable to attend Mrs. Heckler's funeral recently, as he was taking care of his 94-year-old mother.

Novak served on the Brockton School Committee in the '80s, becoming the first Republican on the Committee in 30 years, a



Larry Novak Fighting the Good Fights

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sive left is taking over local government. There are candidates running for mayor in his city promoting an aggressive left-wing agenda. Larry is trying to organize the Republicans into a unified voting-bloc push-back, and stop the takeover.

Elected Office?

Ah, how the rumors can fly. Mr. Novak is being urged to run either for the state Senate or Congress or some political office by various local Republicans. When asked about it, he was uncharacteristically coy, and I let him off the hook. He said, he has made no decision to run for anything "as of yet." He wishes to rebuild the Brockton Republican City Committee and rebuild the Party in the Senate district. He will be opening up a political action committee called the 2nd Plymouth Bristol Political Action Committee to give money to local candidates. He said, "Our biggest shortfall is we don't field candidates at all offices. We're disappearing in key areas of the state. The long-term prognosis is not good for the Republican Party unless we run candidates and have a grassroots operation. You get people because they believe in ideas. They become involved."

"In 1990, we ran a full slate of candidates. The candidates that lost," Larry said, "well, individually, they have remained active in the Republican Party for 20 to 25 years so far. We must continue to do that: running candidates at every opportunity and filling the grassroots. They become your future. They become your sign locations, your future donors, and they become more involved in helping the community."

I asked Larry what his biggest fight has been. Surprisingly, he said it was about trying to get extra help for students. He explained that when he was chairman at Massasoit Community College, he had a fight with the unions over requiring the teachers to be in their offices for students where they could come to get extra help. That apparently turned into a major battle. Novak said "we must continue our fight. Our cause is right and just." ♦

Please send your suggestions for worthy Republican activists to showcase in future editions of The Boston Broadside to: editor@BostonBroadside.com.

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**New England's Most Unique
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A Republican Party Rebirth

by Larry Novak

Chair, Brockton Republican City Committee

On August 6, 2019, nomination papers become available for ward, city, and town committees. Political parties at that time can be changed. You can change the makeup of a ward committee, a city committee and the state committee, and change the direction in the way a political party is going.

You're building a new energetic force to combat the other political party in Massachusetts. A political party represents the views of its members at any given time or is supposed to represent the views of its members. Its makeup is always expanding, decreasing and changing. Our democracy was founded on a two-party system. In Massachusetts over the years, the two-party system has weakened. We need to reverse that trend.

And the question is: How do we do that? I suggest that we return to partisan local elections. Town committees would then have a purpose. They would be able to recruit candidates for school committee, selectmen, and in the city, city councilors. You'd see broader participation in the local party apparatus. More people would become involved. When the town committees in Massachusetts were the greatest, they were the vehicle in which somebody gained a nomination to run for local office. In the '70s, '80s and '90s we ended partisan elections, a step back for the Republican Party.

I think that each Senate District should have a Senate Convention. A convention would rejuvenate the grassroots by adding people, getting people to run as candidates for state rep and state senator. The purpose of a political party is to offer opposition in a set of core beliefs. The Massachusetts Republican Party has failed to do that. It would produce more activists. The purpose would be to promote and fill the Republican ticket at the Senate level and the House level. In the last election cycle, 22 state Senate seats went unopposed. The Republicans failed to out-raise Democrats in any of the seats that were contested. This would help rejuvenate the grassroots and promote an agenda.

A political party controls access to the ballot. It can make rules that can't supersede state statute, but it can make them tighter. This is what this proposal would do. The same thing should be done at the congressional level so that we make sure that we run candidates at every level that's possible. A congressional caucus would then be an aid and it would be the recommendation of the town committee members to have a candidate. It would be something different and would catch the public's attention and also catch the attention of the media.

Further, the Republican State Committee should put resources into rejuvenation of ward and town committees, giving money to rebuild them. The most successful Republican chairman in my lifetime was Ray Shamie. He rebuilt the grassroots by encouraging broader participation and getting more people involved in the process; then they feel they have a stake in the outcome of the election.

This three-prong approach that I have just recommended would strengthen the political parties in Massachusetts that have been on the downward cycle.

What we're seeing is increased unenrolled voters in Massachusetts that have no affiliation with either political party. I think we need to strengthen the involvement of our citizens in the political process. We need balance in Massachusetts. To further strengthen the Republican State Committee and the Democratic State Committee, I would suggest that the Republican National Committee people be elected at a state convention. The rules to be determined by the Republican State Committee on how the election of both of those positions are filled. Before, they were elected by the delegates to the National Convention. The Republican State Committee changed the election to electing the Republican national committeeman and committeewoman to itself. I would suggest that an off-year election, when we don't have a gubernatorial election, should be when we elect the Republican national committeeman and committeewoman at a statewide convention. It would bring more people involved in the process. It would allow the membership of the ward and town committees to determine their leaders.

These are some of the proposals that I would propose to strengthen the Republican Party.

I can be reached at (781) 600-1566 if you'd care to discuss these proposals.

I may be listened also on 1530 AM radio on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Call in if you wish at (508) 822-1106 and speak to me live. ♦



Warren P. Russo

The Greatest Show on Earth

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey have gone to that great circus in the sky, but nature abhors a vacuum, so the parade of clowns marches on, with amusing characters from across the country seeking to perform at the big top in Washington.

Consider Joe Biden, whose folksy demeanor masks a political career built on cash payoffs from foreign governments and re-elections powered by the sympathy vote for his multiple family losses. His first wife, Neilia, and toddler daughter, Naomi, were killed in a 1972 auto accident, and son Beau died of brain cancer in 2015.

In 2011, Joe's other son, Hunter Biden, and his investment partner, James Bulger, the nephew of notorious mobster Whitey Bulger, engineered a plan to get the Chinese government to give their investment firm \$1.5 billion. Hunter consummated the deal when Joe Biden arranged for his son to fly aboard Air Force Two as part of an official U.S. delegation to China in 2013.

Meanwhile, Joe used his senatorial influence to get an overage waiver for Hunter, enabling him to be commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 2013, despite being 43 years old at the time. Thanks to routine drug screening, however, Hunter Biden set a record for the shortest Navy career in history -- just one month -- by testing positive for cocaine.

The taste of power is sweet, however, and the machinations of America's political class know no bounds in the search for personal fortune. As vice president, Joe Biden somehow found it necessary to repeatedly fly Air Force Two to Ukraine to personally urge officials there to resist Russian influence, as if they were not already doing just that. Joe's son, Hunter, who often accompanied him on those trips, was appointed in 2014 to the board of directors of Burisma, the Ukraine's largest gas producer.

Both Bidens are lawyers, calling to mind Godfather author Mario Puzo's remark that "A lawyer with his briefcase can steal more than a hundred men with guns."

Now comes Robert Francis O'Rourke, whose official occupation of "politician" would have given George Washington gastric distress. A Democratic never-do-well, this darling of millennials has garnered substantial campaign contributions for reasons unknown to thinking individuals.

Whether it is his good looks, a fondness for dropping F-bombs, or his wild gesticulations, we may never know, as this example of white privilege has no future in public office. O'Rourke's criminal record includes arrests for both burglary and drunk driving, but perhaps due to the influence of his father, who had been an El Paso County judge, all of the charges were dropped.

Nevertheless, O'Rourke has outdone John Kerry by marrying a billionaire's daughter, and he appeals to Texas' large Latino population by hiding his all-Irish heritage behind his nickname, Beto.

Observers of the American political comedy sit and wonder from whence these people come, hoping they will all just go away. Unfortunately, this is not likely to happen, given the inestimable attractiveness of earning a fine living at taxpayer expense without actually performing any useful work.

Hope springs eternal, however, with Elizabeth Warren's new populist approach and frozen smile likely dooming her run for the White House to the same fate as the Native Americans she once had hoped to join around the campfire.

Then we have Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), another narcissist hoping to play the race card to political fame and fortune, as did his apparent role model, Barack Obama.

Just as Obama hastily defended a black individual without having all the facts, Booker similarly rushed to the defense of overpaid black homosexual TV actor Jussie Smollett by calling his attack a "modern-day lynching." Smollett, in fact, had attempted to boost his unspectacular television career and inexplicable million-dollar salary by hiring a pair of black Nigerians to stage a phony attack, then describing them to police as "white supremacists."

Booker, who is unmarried and calls himself the "Spartacus" of today, has admitted groping a girl in high school, and in 2014 a homosexual man targeted him with an uncorroborated charge of sexual assault in a public bathroom. Spartacus would likely not approve, and neither will informed voters.

Then of course, how can we ever forget Bernie Sanders, much as we might like to? Should a person who never held a real job until age 40 be the next president? Is a man who has lived off various wives for most of his adult life really qualified to craft national budgets?

To his credit, Sanders does have some interesting credentials for a boy from Brooklyn. He knows something about socialism, having lived on a kibbutz in Israel before moving to Vermont, where he and his first wife occupied a primitive, dirt-floor maple sugar shack with occasional electricity, until she left two years later.

Sanders, however, has repeatedly been elected to Congress, which might appear mysterious until you remember that he lives in Vermont, where they applauded his nine-hour filibuster opposing the Bush tax cuts in 2010. After all, what's a socialist to do without other people's money to spend?

Ringling Bros. may be gone, but the circus parade marches on, with Donald Trump happily playing the ringmaster. It's still the Greatest Show on Earth. ♦

Warren P. Russo is a veteran journalist who writes about politics from Plum Island. Reach him via WPRjournalist@gmail.com.

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