

# Kootenai County GOP Holds ‘Lincoln Day Dinner’ Without a Shot Fired

By Rich Loudenback



With all the tumultuousness being projected by the national media about DC Republicans these days one might have expected some level of feisty behavior over candidacies or strategies at the Kootenai County Central Committee’s ‘Lincoln Day Dinner’ held at the Coeur d’Alene Resort on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Disappointing as it might have been for news seekers, all was tranquil with oneness abounding. Dang! Notwithstanding, that this event is the party’s major fund raising event for the year.



Don Bradway



Neil Oliver & Steve Yates

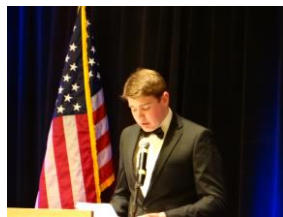


US Rep. Raul Labrador

Chairman for the event, Don Bradway, as master of ceremonies introduced speakers: Central Committee chairman, Neil Oliver, Idaho’s Republican Party chairman Steve Yates, Idaho U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, Idaho’s U.S. Representative Raul Labrador, a local teenager named Daniel Brands, Kootenai County Commissioner Marc Eberlein and keynote speaker from Washington DC, Matt Kibbe who is founder of the popular website Freedom Works and a brand new website named [freethepeople.org](http://freethepeople.org). Kibbe is the author of two books: *“Don’t Hurt People and Don’t Take Their Stuff,”* and *“Hostile Takeover: Resisting centralized Government’s Stranglehold On America.”*



Marc Eberlein



Daniel Brands



Bob & Paige Bingham



Matt Kibbe



Tim Kastning, Don Gary, Sen. Mary Souza & Rep. Ron Mendive



Tony Wisnieski, John Malloy, Jim Polzin, Todd Hatfield & Giles Kavenaugh

Kibbe stated, “All the grassroots movements like the Tea Parties are being united by their knowing that

Washington, DC is corrupt and broken. They know that the insiders of crony capitalists, the lobbyists and everybody line up outside the Ways and Means Committee trying to get a special deal. Sometimes what politicians say is not true. When Bernie Sanders talks about Capitalism, he’s actually talking about Cronyism.”

Kibbe said that we have to connect with this millennial generation who is feeling burned and today are buying into a pitch that socialism is all about a community coming together and they are not getting the truth about the failures of socialism.

“There are these common values that we have that can be pulled together as Americans, as communities and people that care about other people. The only way that a civil society functions is through liberty. You’re not going to do it

through socialist planning and you're not going to do it through some strong man taking over Washington, DC and telling us how to live our lives. It has to be done through freedom and liberty and respect for our fellow man," Kibbe further stated.

He pointed out that too much government power always becomes a disaster resulting in unintended consequences and now, more than ever, the best way for millennials and all Americans to defend themselves is to embrace the liberties defined in the Bill of Rights.

Chairman Steve Yates citing the beginning to the Preamble to the Republican Party Platform stated, "We are republicans because we believe the strength of our nation lies with our faith and reliance on God our Creator, the individual and the family, and that each person's dignity, freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.

"We are a party that begins with an expression of faith and an acknowledgement that all of us are open to be accountable. We should be proud of republicans.

"Secondly, we believe the United States Constitution is the greatest and most inspired document to govern a nation, and the republican form of government it gives us is the best guarantor of freedom in history."