Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt
Thursday, 05 March 2009 10:13 - Last Updated Friday, 06 March 2009 08:48

Starting early to strategize election wins in 2010, Phillips County Republicans gathered a large turnout at the annual Lincoln Day Soup, Salad and Pie Social Sunday, March 1.

More than 90 attended the event, which was held at the Haxtun Community Center. In a nonelection year, the turnout was cited for being especially good.

Current and past office holders, as well as future hopefuls spoke to the group, all emphasizing the importance of becoming informed and involved in the effort to regain Republican dominance in both the Colorado legislature and in Washington D.C.

Phillips County Republican chairman Deb Carlstrom welcomed those in attendance, noting, “We’re here to regroup” following the 2008 election.

Four HHS social studies students of teacher John Ortner assisted in the program by introducing speakers. They included juniors Elise Nelson and Logan Krueger and freshmen Jeremy Loutensock and Austin Killin. Also helping with introductory responsibilities were HHS graduates Elisa Sagehorn and Kayla Young.

Ortner gave the invocation, leading into it with the American’s Creed, which he noted came out of a nationwide contest during World War I for the best summary of American political faith.

The introduction set the tone for the message of various speakers, all reiterating the theme that hard work will be required of the grassroots effort.

Current state elected officials shared concerns for such issues as the new transportation bill, increased license fees, oil and gas legislation, removal of spending limits, stimulus bill, taxation and more.

“We will win in 2010,” said more than one Republican Sunday.

Elected officials who addressed the group included Jerry Sonnenberg of Sterling, Colo. House Dist. #65; Greg Brophy of Wray, Colo. Senate Dist. #1; Bob Watson of Sterling, District Attorney, 13th Judicial Dist.; and Cory Gardner of Yuma, Colo. House Dist. #63.