



Republicans Abroad Switzerland

Fall 2008

Check these sites:

<http://www.johnmccain.com/>

In recent days I have set before the American people an energy plan, the Lexington Project -- named for the town where Americans asserted their independence once before. And let it begin today with this commitment: In a world of hostile and unstable suppliers of oil, this nation will achieve strategic independence by 2025."

John McCain, June 25, 2008

<http://www.republicanabroad-vl.org/>

The Republicans Abroad Voting League website helps Americans living outside the USA to register to vote. US citizens living abroad can register to vote in the state where they last resided.

RAS hosts European Regional Meeting

Your chapter hosted the Republicans Abroad European Regional Meeting in Lugano on September 19 and 20. Delegates from Europe were joined by RA members from the Far East and the RAI Washington headquarters. Thanks to all those members from Switzerland who came to support the event.

International institutions found wanting

The regional meeting kicked off with a public lecture series, which attracted visitors from the community and from students and faculty of Franklin College. Ed Flaherty set forth the problems of corruption and lack of oversight in UN organizations, while Jack Caravelli discussed the controls -- and lack of control -- over dangerous nuclear materials, and the threats posed to all of us.

Friday evening afforded the participants an opportunity to see the Lake of Lugano and visit some of its picturesque corners. A cruise with cocktails made a stop to visit a medieval church on the lake, and then we traveled to a local *grotto* for some local cuisine and wine.

RA International and its role in the campaign

George Yates, European Regional Chairman, brought the business meeting to order on Saturday morning. Bob Horn, RAI Legal Advisor, set forth the current legal situation as regards campaign finance, with suggestions for financing our own activities. We also had a report on the ad campaign which RA is sponsoring in the international press. Updates from various chapters were heard, along with examples of RA's important role in public diplomacy.



Jim Nicholson's message to Republicans living abroad

The keynote speaker at the RA Europe banquet on Saturday night was Jim Nicholson, former Chairman of the GOP, former Ambassador to the Vatican, and most recently Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He related some of his personal experiences with Sen. McCain, in particular McCain's activities on behalf of the US military and veterans, often out of the public eye. He contrasted this with Sen Obama's (very brief) service on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, where he rarely showed up for or stayed through the hearings. Secretary Nicholson went on to give a panoramic view of the election campaign and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Republicans living overseas to inform people where we live about the real issues, to register absentee voters, and to generate funds for the Party.

The Swiss media gave broad coverage to the Regional meeting, with dispatches and interviews appearing in all three language newspapers, on television and radio. This coverage, as well as the event at Club Nautique in Geneva on Sep 10, have sparked a surge in inquiries about membership, hits on the website, and requests to get involved. We intend to follow up with campaign events and fundraisers in key cities, **watch for announcements!**

Bob Gebhardt, Chairman



*Left:
James Nicholson
addresses the RA Europe
Banquet.*



*Right:
Bob Horn, Joan Hills
(RAI Co-Chair), and
George Yates*