

The following are responses to numerous accusations levied by Ann Brown, former treasurer of the Macomb County Republican Party. Answers are provided by either Rob Montilla, current Macomb GOP chairperson, or Ron Babin, current Macomb GOP treasurer. Mrs. Brown's exact wording is provided in order to have full context of the complaint.

Note that there are two reasons Mr. Babin and Mr. Montilla agreed to participate in this exercise: 1) to prove their commitment to transparency and sharing information with the broader Macomb GOP base; 2) to help eliminate the aura of mistrust that a select group of individuals is trying to foster within the Macomb County Republican Party.

Mr. Montilla and Mrs. Brown will agree that people need to be held accountable for their actions. By presenting both sides of the discussion, the reader can judge who should be held to account.

Mrs. Brown: *As a degreed experienced accountant and corporate treasurer, I have made a career devoted to cleaning up "corruption".*

Babin: As an "experienced accountant", she should know the Macomb GOP bank accounts are owned and property of the Executive Committee, not her as an individual – yet she closed accounts that had been open for over 15 years and oddly tried to keep them unavailable. In addition she has yet to turn over "the books" and/or the paperwork backing up all inflows and outflows for the party over the past two years. A flash drive with unknown data was provided but still no paper records. The data will show whether she was looking for facts to tell the truth or twisting the facts in an attempt to discredit.

Mrs. Brown: *I find it ironic that the very same people throwing their accusations in the most recent Macomb Daily article are the same culprits of the Macomb County Republican Party corruption I was asked to replace. I wish to make the facts known.*

Montilla: It is unfortunate that Mrs. Brown does not understand the difference between accusations and opinions in a news article. Since she was on the team that decided on the spending detailed in the article, you think she would champion the decision. It is apparent that the decision had its own flaws and this is an attempt to deflect blame. Also, Mrs. Brown has talked repeatedly about corruption but has never come forward with evidence.

Mrs. Brown: *In the Macomb Daily January 11, 2013 website article by Chad Selweski concerning our December event there were misquotes, fabrications and untruths. December events are common practice. They are to "thank" hundreds of active volunteers and contributors. They cannot be compared to one contribution check to a candidate. The general populous would more commonly refer to them as "Victory Parties".*

Montilla: There is accuracy that "Christmas" parties have been a regular tradition for the Macomb GOP and other Republican groups in the county for quite some time. Many times these are potluck events or a reasonable fee is charged to cover the costs of the event. Many of these events are also used to raise donations for charitable organizations. The complaints I have heard from numerous activists regarding this expenditure is both the amount and that regulated campaign funds were used. In Macomb where we are generally less well funded than the

Democrats, activists are concerned if this was a wise use of the funds. It is a valid concern as no fiscal conservative can justify this expenditure.

Babin: We have had "Victory Parties" in the past and they occur right after an election, not 30 plus days afterwards. Our Christmas gatherings have been paid for by either attendees or some portion by the MCRP strictly from administrative funds, never campaign funds. The highest paid by the MCRP was under Chairman Stan Grot of about \$1,200 in 2003 but still administrative funds were used, not regulated funds.

Mrs. Brown: *The article goes on to say that "critics" claim that it is because of the outgoing Macomb County Republican Executive Committee that the republicans lost local Republican races. If you look at the 2009-2010 Chair Jared Maynard and Treasurer Ron Babin's campaign finance report, the local election contributions and results in 2010 were very similar.*

Montilla: Comparing the use of spending from administration to administration is a fruitless exercise. The reason administrations change is perhaps due to lack of trust in how an outgoing administration spent money. The process to elect a new leadership team allows for self correction. However, this is an oddly inaccurate statement regarding results. In 2010, Maynard led the party to assist six (6) Republican county commissioners to be elected. This was a milestone event in that Kathy Vosburg later became the first Republican Chairperson in the history of the County Board of Commissioners. In 2012, under the leadership of Barbara VanSyckel and Ann Brown, there are only four (4) Republican county commissioners and Mrs. Vosburg is no longer the chair. This information can be confirmed at the Macomb County Clerk's website at <http://www.macombcountymi.gov/clerksoffice/electiondept.htm>.

Mrs. Brown: *The article claims that Kathy Vosburg lost her bid to serve two more years as board chair of the Macomb County Commissioners but in recent years the Republicans have never held a majority at the county level. Kathy Vosburg as Chair and a key County Party Leader additionally had the responsibility of recruiting candidates and helping raise money for those candidates.*

Montilla: It is true Republicans have never held a majority on the board. But Mrs. Vosburg became Chair with six Republicans and one Democrat voting for her. Mrs. Vosburg has also been involved in a variety of ways to help Republican candidates. Any claims to the contrary are baseless. She is a true leader to help get candidates elected in our community.

Mrs. Brown: *In 2012 Macomb County Republican leadership interviewed all Macomb County Commissioner candidates and contributed to each based on their campaign needs. We were told that Rob Montilla lured these candidates to his Republican Committee of Northern Macomb County PAC, or political action committee, meeting only to tell them that he would not contribute to anyone south of Hall Road.*

Montilla: I am not sure what Mrs. Brown means by "lured" candidates. The Macomb GOP met with candidates as did the Republican Committee of Northern Macomb County (RCNMC). A good candidate will seek assistance wherever they can get it. I encouraged any County Commissioner or Countywide candidate I spoke with to talk with the county party as well. The RCNMC's mission is to help candidates north of Hall Rd., with primary focus at the local levels and the group stayed focused to that mission. Financially, the RCNMC helped candidates at the county, municipal and school board levels. We were successful in helping to change a 6-1 Democrat majority in Chesterfield Township prior to the election to a 4-3 Republican majority.

That is success and the type of success we will look to bring to the Macomb GOP. The County Party's primary mission is to help candidates at the county level. Under the VanSyckel/Brown administration, Republicans lost every countywide seat, a trend going on for about 20 years, and as I mentioned they lost two county commissioner seats.

Mrs. Brown: *Some of our Macomb County Republican officials personally became involved in certain county and local races. Maybe if our accusers had participated and contributed to the legitimate Macomb County Republican Party we could have done more. Why isn't Kathy outraged at Montilla?*

Montilla: The issue of the "legitimate" Republican party is something the VanSyckel/Brown administration, along with 10th District Chair Stanley Grot, have bemoaned for their entire time leading their organizations. The RCNMC has always described itself as an independent and complementary entity in building the party and helping candidates in the north end of the county. Accusations to the contrary are baseless. The county party and RCNMC have enjoyed a good working relationship until the past two years. Numerous attempts were made by me to find ways to partner with the county party. Each time, the offers were rejected. Also, many people from the RCNMC worked with the State Party to make phone calls at the Victory Center and do campaigning door-to-door. We worked with the party structure that was actually focused on winning campaigns.

Mrs. Brown: *As far as campaign volunteer support you need to consult Janice Nearon and Vicki Czapski who ran our Victory Center. Janice Nearon and Vicki Czapski were paid State Party employees and Janice, as one of the party leaders, also received tickets to local functions paid for by State Party. Janice and Vicki controlled our center from May 2012 until after the general election in November. I am not sure which candidate campaigns they targeted so I cannot speak for them. Note that in 2004 Janice Nearon also received large campaign contributions for her bid for Macomb County Commissioner and lost.*

Montilla: I am not certain as to the relevance of any of these statements as it relates to this discussion.

Mrs. Brown: *Additionally if the source of this article is coming from Jared Maynard, Ron Babin, and Rob Montilla, they were not members of the 2011-2012 Macomb County Republican Party.*

Montilla: The source of the article is actually Mrs. Brown. She made a campaign finance filing as part of her job as Treasurer. This filing detailed the \$5000 payment to the Palazzo Grande. The filing information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/amlc4lh>. In addition there is an expense of \$525 for tickets/envelopes and \$450 to a bakery for desserts. It is uncertain at this time if these were related to the Christmas Party or another unknown event. Again, accountability is an issue here. Mr. Grot, Mrs. VanSyckle and Mrs. Brown were on the Finance Committee that would have had to approve the expenditure. I know at least two people on the Finance Committee that were not included in the discussion. Who should be answering the question of transparency and accountability? Accountable leaders will stand behind their decision and not attempt to deflect criticism.

Mrs. Brown: *Chad's article erroneously claims that these are "party faithful". Jared Maynard, Rob Montilla and Ron Babin also had committed to attend the Michigan 12th Cong District*

Republican December event as seen on the Facebook event page. Janice Nearon is the 12th District Chair.

Montilla: I am uncertain what relevance there is in our commitment to the 12th District function which had been announced long before the County Party Christmas Party. I also committed to a family event the same evening. What Mrs. Brown fails to mention is that Maynard, Babin and I were not invited to the exclusive Christmas party. It is unknown what criteria was used for the Christmas party. I know dues paying members, donors and regular volunteers that were not invited.

The definition of "party faithful" is in the eye of the beholder. I have been involved for four years. Mr. Maynard and Mr. Babin have been involved far longer. I chose to put my efforts toward leading the RCNMC the past two years. Despite the time and dollars I put in to the RCNMC, I still managed to frequently attend county party Executive Committee meetings and even purchased a table for \$500 at the 2012 Lincoln Dinner. This can be verified at: <http://tinyurl.com/a4sy2p5>. Mr. Babin also purchased tickets to this same dinner. We all did various things such as door knocking and phone calling to help Mitt Romney and other candidates. Mrs. Brown clearly has a narrow description of "party faithful". I would contend that anyone is faithful to the party that lends their time and donates money to the cause. To try to define narrow boundaries based on her interpretation is a great disservice to many fine donors and activists in the county.

***Mrs. Brown:** In fact, many of this newly elected Executive Committee did not even attend a single 2011-2012 monthly Macomb County Republican Party meeting. Our meetings were open to the public and you did not have to pay membership to attend.*

Montilla: I will offer my observation that there were many in the leadership of the Macomb GOP in 2011-2012 that felt they were entitled to have people engage with them just because they were the leaders of the party. As the new Chair of the County Party, I know the burden is on the current Executive Committee to provide organizational value to prospective activists and donors, not the other way around. The time of a volunteer and the money of a donor are investments not to be taken lightly and it is our responsibility to provide a return on that investment in the form of a successful Republican Party. This is one of the important shifts my administration will present.

***Mrs. Brown:** This 2013-2014 Macomb County Republican Executive Committee has an elected member that is not even a precinct delegate, Kurt King. It has been the practice to award this honor to members who have worked and campaigned to be elected Precinct Delegates.*

Montilla: I'll take Mrs. Brown's statement one step further -- we have two non-Precinct Delegates on the Executive Committee, the second being Ann Kilroy from St. Clair Shores. I am proud to have both of them on the team. The County Party bylaws do not require an Executive Committee member to be a Precinct Delegate. The reason for this is to have the ability to reward hard working activists even if they do not win a Precinct Delegate position. This is especially true if a vacancy on the Executive Committee opens mid-term. You can confirm that being a Precinct Delegate is not required by seeing the bylaws here: <http://macombgop.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/mcgop-bylaws.pdf>.

Mrs. Brown: *Their first 2013 meeting on January 12th was a private closed meeting as posted on the county website. Why a private closed meeting?*

Montilla: Our first official Executive Committee meeting is on January 31. Details of the meeting can be found on <http://www.macombgop.com>. What would have been the official January Executive Committee meeting was voted to be cancelled due to proximity of the holidays. The meeting on January 12th was an internal strategy brainstorming session with members of the Executive Committee and was not posted on the website. No official party business requiring a decision was discussed at this meeting. In fact, I will talk about the results of the strategy session during the meeting on January 31. Official party business is handled at Executive Committee meetings. Any other type of meeting is not required to be open to the public but broad participation will be encouraged. The more telling questions for Mrs. Brown should be why a private closed Christmas Party? Or for the upcoming convention, why a private closed "Pre-Convention Informational and Strategy Meeting" by Mr. Grot on January 29 at the Palazzo Grande? To see the invitation for this meeting, go to <http://tinyurl.com/apnknnf>.

Mrs. Brown: *Why aren't those in any past or present G.O.P. Statutory and Executive positions not responding to the untruths and distortions in this article? Clearly Chad Selweski should do objective reporting by researching the facts. It is well known that Chad has a history of distorting the facts/truth to the demise of any organization or individual he chooses to target. Why is no-one willing to stop it?*

Montilla: First, perhaps they are not responding because there aren't any "untruths and distortions" in the article. She speaks of "untruths and distortions" and again does not provide specifics. I am still unclear what Mrs. Brown thinks is factually inaccurate with the article. Second, perhaps because many people believe that spending \$5000 of campaign money on a Christmas Party is a poor display of fiscal responsibility, a core value of Republicans. At least it is a core value for most Republicans.

Mrs. Brown: *The 2011 Macomb County officers were handed \$548.01 campaign funds and the 2013 Macomb County officers were handed \$542.47. I repeat: \$548.01 to \$542.47. The previous group was left no more broke than the current one. So why are they misrepresenting the truth or not telling the whole truth? Maynard, Babin and Montilla present only what supports their bogus claims.*

Babin: Partially true statements but a distortion of the facts. Mrs. Brown fails to mention that at the end of 2010, we also turned over \$1,972 in administrative funds used to operate for months. There's no goal of turning over large sums of campaign funds as they are raised for the purpose of helping candidates in the November election. But turning over admin funds helps the next Committee operate while they raise their own money. Mrs., Brown turned over a total of \$681.56 in administrative and campaign funds. We turned over a total of \$2,617 between campaign and admin funds combined.

Mrs. Brown: *Ron Babin became MCRP Treasurer in 2004. On January 16, 2009 an audit was conducted by his Executive Committee and more specifically by Kathy Vosburg where she found that Ron Babin had paid 21 candidates' filing fees which were not reported in compliance with the Bureau of Elections. The audit further discusses a check made out directly to Chair Jared Maynard for candidate filing fees but it is unclear if this is for the same 21 candidates. Ron Babin also received by registered letter signed by Norm Valli an Error or Omissions report filed*

against Babin on his 2009 post-General campaign filing. This report Ron Babin never corrected. The Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections manual specifically states "The treasurer is responsible for responding in writing to all Notices of Error or Omission sent to the committee". The county also was fined \$1000.00 at that time. Mr. Babin's fines and Error or Omissions are all public knowledge and can be found on the SOS Bureau of Elections website. http://miboecfr.nicusa.com/cgi-bin/cfr/com_det.cgi?com_id=1444

Babin: I actually became Treasurer in 2003 to fill a mid-term opening. An audit was conducted in 2009 at my request with an Audit Committee. It is false to say the candidate filing fees were not reported. They were listed on an amended report as there was uncertainty whether they needed to be reported and we collectively, the whole Audit Committee, decided to err on the cautious side and report. The Maynard check was part of the 21 candidate filings listed. Mrs. Brown's claim about the reason for the \$1000 fine is inaccurate. The fine was from filing the Post General report late as I was swamped at my business at the time. I personally paid \$500 of that fine. That the fines and Error or Omissions is public knowledge is true. The Omission was for missed employer information on a donor and did not incur a fine. These items were all discussed with the Executive Committee at the time.

Mrs. Brown: *In 2010 Kathy Vosburg received over \$7,000.00 in (Jared/Babin) campaign contributions. There was another audit done on Ron Babin's 2010 books and the audit found that Jared/Babin made payments in the amount of \$4600.00 to volunteers for door to door distributions of campaign literature. Among some of these door to door distributors ironically were Kathy Vosburg's children. This was also not reported on their Macomb County Republican Party Itemized Independent Expenditures Schedule. There were wages in the amount of \$4975.00 paid without reporting to government on a 1099 or W-2, thereby avoiding paying employment and income taxes. This was paid to only three individuals, one of whom is the newly elected Vice Chair, Jean Uhl.*

Babin: The audit Mrs. Brown refers to was not done by an Executive Committee while I was still treasurer nor was I asked to participate. Mrs. Brown's statements about the \$4600 was inaccurate. It was part of our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) door-to-door work. Campaign literature was delivered directly to candidates. Yes, some of the GOTV work was done by Kathy Vosburg's children. Is there something wrong with that? Good help is hard to find. GOTV expenditures are not required to be reported, Mrs. Brown should know that. The GOTV workers were not employees so they did not get 'wages'. The 1099 information was given in advance to Mrs. Brown as the filings were due during her term. I was no longer Treasurer when the filing was due. Mrs. Brown had to be forced by her Chairman to do her duty and file the reports with the information given. Mrs. Brown is passing judgment on the Executive Committee which approved it and we won races.

Mrs. Brown: *The newly elected leadership plans to pay staff as exemplified by their organizational chart. In comparison, the 2011-2012 leadership felt that in these economic times to line someone's pocket with hard earned funds was not the mission of this volunteer/fundraising organization. In 2011-2012, no one was paid monetarily for their work.*

Montilla: Mrs. Brown has no knowledge of our plans and is only making assumptions to support her narrative. At this time, all positions will be volunteer even if they say "Staff" on the organizational chart. This does not rule out paying staff in the future if we have a defined need and the money to actually do this. But if it happens, the entire Executive Committee will know

and have a say in the decision. We will run this organization as a business and will make decisions accordingly. Given that the \$5000 Christmas Party is the original reason for this list of grievances, I hardly think Mrs. Brown can claim any fiscally responsible high ground here.

Mrs. Brown: *In 2009-2010 Rob Montilla was working on the Macomb County website under the direction of Chair Jared Maynard. In following years Rob continued to use this system for some of his emails which we intercepted during our administration of the website. In 2011 Rob directed the Republican Committee of Northern Macomb County PAC. Rob solicited contributions under the guise that he represented the official Republican Party. The three levels of the State Republican Party are State, Congressional District and County and these are governed by the State Party By-Laws.*

Montilla: Both of these statements are outright lies. There is no other description to use. I challenge Mrs. Brown or anyone in the prior administration to come forward with evidence backing accusations I inappropriately used county party assets or represented myself as the official county party. This narrative was tried once before in a county party email:

<http://tinyurl.com/avygrpt>. Shortly thereafter, a retraction of sorts was sent out again via county party email: <http://tinyurl.com/bznegpx>. It is unfortunate that this failed narrative is being tried again.

I'd also like to point out Article II: Sec 5, Part d of the Macomb GOP bylaws states: "The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows: Foster, promote, recognize and aid in the establishment of those clubs, groups, organizations within Macomb County which will cooperate with and enhance the political activities of the Party."

If certain members of the prior Executive Committee abided by all the bylaws, a better environment of partnership may have emerged. Most notably among these Executive Committee members was Mr. Grot who demonstrated repeated denigration of other Republican organizations in the county. Here is one example: <http://tinyurl.com/alm5bsa>. And here is the unified response from many of the independent Republican organizations in the county: <http://tinyurl.com/bev3zdh>. Again, this will be a major difference in my administration.

Mrs. Brown: *In 2011, Rob held a fund raiser which he called a "Reagan Dinner" and raised over \$9,000. This dinner name is used for official Republican fundraising dinners at the Congressional District level only.*

Montilla: True, the RCNMC held a successful Reagan fundraising dinner in August 2011. It was a grand event that featured every Republican from the Macomb state legislature. It was emceed by Secretary of State Ruth Johnson and featured Congresswoman Candice Miller as our keynote speaker. We had many prominent local Republicans attend and it was a great celebration of our accomplishments in the 2010 elections and the efforts of the Republican governor and legislature. There is no law restricting the use of Republican icon Ronald Reagan as a focal point for any dinner. This is a fabrication by Mr. Grot who later had a successful Reagan Dinner of his own. If every Republican organization can use the Reagan name as a focal point to drive a successful fundraiser, then they should do so. This is still a free country after all.

Mrs. Brown: *In 2012, Kathy Vosburg, Jared Maynard and Ron Babin were contributors to the Republican County of Northern Macomb County PAC. This also can be found at the Bureau of*

Elections website. In 2012 the Republican Committee of Northern Macomb County PAC made a campaign contribution to Kathy Vosburg. Why didn't Kathy use her influence to encourage Rob to contribute more to our other commissioner candidates? In Chad's article, Kathy Vosburg is quoted as saying there were "at least three races in play".

Montilla: The RCNMC also contributed to County Commission candidate Juliana Sabatini. As I mentioned, the group's focus is candidates on the north end of the county. What Mrs. Brown fails to tell you is that the RCNMC did fund a poll for five County Commission races in the south end of the county. From this poll, three races were identified as "in play" as Mrs. Vosburg indicated. The RCNMC stepped in because the VanSyckel/Grot/Brown Finance Committee refused to fund a poll of their own to identify where they should invest. This type of polling is standard for any county party to identify races in play. We conducted the poll in the interests of partnering. If we covered that cost, perhaps the county party would have more funds to help push one of the candidates over the top. The poll results were vilified and the county party did not act on the results. The sad part of the story is that the poll results were essentially on target when compared to election day numbers.

Mrs. Brown: *In response to Marlene Mann's letter to the Editor dated January 17th, I would like to point out that although Mrs. Mann may be a precinct delegate she also was not an actual member of the 2011-2012 Macomb County Republican Party. With my skills, I offered to be an alternate treasurer, so imagine my surprise when my name was read by the nominating committee. I was elected at the Convention just like everyone else. I was not appointed by Mr. Grot as she claims. I have come to know Mr. Grot through my recent involvement. Mr. Grot, I have learned, was a Macomb County Commissioner, Congresswoman Candice Miller's Deputy when she was Michigan Secretary Of State, huge fundraiser for Bill Schuette, and volunteered for Ronald Reagan. I am pleased to know a dedicated G.O.P. member of such stature. The fact that Mr. Grot was a co-founder to a local tea party speaks volumes of Mr. Grot's skills and his credibility. The tea party educating and helping citizens like Mrs. Mann become precinct delegates gave the G.O.P. a huge boost. Mrs. Mann's endorsement of the current 2013-2014 leadership speaks volumes. After this letter I wonder if Mrs. Mann will continue to encourage other precinct delegates to join the new leadership of the Macomb County Republican Party.*

Montilla: Again, the narrow view that in order to be a Republican in Macomb that you have to join the County Party. Marlene Mann has been a fantastic precinct delegate for 16 years and was not brought into the party by Mr. Grot. Ms. Mann's letter can be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/ayt4515> and makes no mention of Mrs. Brown. I do not know why Mrs. Brown felt compelled to bring Ms. Mann's name into this discussion except if it was to tarnish her for critiquing Mr. Grot.

As far as Mr. Grot's dedication and stature, there are two major items in the past two years that raise questions and should be considered when talking of party leadership integrity. The first is when Delegate and Alternate lists for the State Convention in 2011 were turned in to the state party different than what the county caucus had approved under Mr. Grot's leadership. I filed the challenge and the Credentials Committee of the Michigan Republican Party resoundingly supported my challenge. You can see the state party report here: <http://tinyurl.com/bhxwg7o>. The second incident was when Mr. Grot was named as part of the team that put together the Precinct Delegate apportionment in 2012 which is not compliant with state law. Details of this

issue can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/a99h8f7>. Both of these instances go to the core of how someone gets power at the leadership levels of the party.

Mrs. Brown: *As the incoming 2011 Macomb County Party Treasurer I was handed purged files, handed unfinished work (1099' s), and received little to no cooperation from the previous Treasurer Ron Babin. Ron refused to answer my calls and took three months to turn over the Petty Cash. You don't find that in this article. Now as the out-going treasurer, I have been completely cooperative and am leaving with NO fine or Errors or Omissions report filed against me.*

Babin: Again, regarding the 1099s, these were all due in 2011 during Mrs. Brown's term as Treasurer. There are numerous untrue statements here. Mrs. Brown was given ALL permanent paper records (Deposits, payment records, bank statements etc. including full access to historical online bank records. Also, the petty cash never left the office which her team received keys for when they took over. I became uncooperative only after she went behind my back BEFORE my term ended and had information changed on our bank accounts without asking or telling me.

Let me point out Article III: Sec 3 of the bylaws covering Officers of the Party: "At the end of the term of office of any out-going officer, they shall surrender all documents and property in their possession to the new officer no later than ten (10) days after their term of office expires."

Also Article III: Sec 4: "1st meeting after Fall Convention - After the completion of the election of officers, the current officers shall give their end of term report of the Executive Committee."

And Article III: Sec 6, Part e: "The duty to submit reports to the Executive Committee and officers of the Party as may be required by action of the Executive Committee and such other reports as may be necessary to keep the Executive Committee informed of organization activity."

Mrs. Brown did not and has not turned over the permanent paper records for years 2010, 2011 or 2012 as required in Section 3, only thru 2009. She did not give the report required in Section 4. She did not give reports to the Executive Committee per Section 6,e that would have informed them of the \$5,000 payment/deposit on the Christmas party keeping it a secret until December's filing.

Mrs. Brown: *Apparently in this G.O.P. it doesn't matter what kind of job you did while elected. To further correct the record, I was NOT bounced as Chad claims. In early November I had announced my desire to not seek re-election for the Treasurer position citing personal reasons. My husband was diagnosed with Stage Four Cancer on July 6, 2012.*

Montilla: We hope for nothing but the best outcomes for Mr. Brown.

Mrs. Brown: *Where is "MY" 2011-2012 Executive Committee? As an accountant with 40 years of experience, I now watch as some Macomb Daily reporter, Chad Selweski "questions my work". I was the only member of the Macomb County Republican Party Executive Committee personally liable for any fines for her action and yet I still volunteered. This article is the thanks I get for volunteering with the G.O.P.?*

Montilla: Except in rare occurrences, the functions of the Republican Party in Macomb County are fully fueled by the efforts of volunteers. Officers have additional responsibilities and

headaches inherent with the roles. But I believe that any officer that takes on the challenge of leadership agrees to take the good with the bad in an effort to help move the party onward and upward. It is the actions you demonstrate and the success you generate while holding the office that will illicit thanks or not.

***Mrs. Brown:** I can guarantee one thing; if these issues aren't addressed and people aren't held accountable for their actions this cycle will continue and the Macomb Daily's Chad Selweski will gladly continue to print the fabricated facts to the demise of our party. After all, elections will continue to attract a new crop of honest hard working individuals who will also be led to the G.O.P. mulching machine. As I sit here this morning I try to remember why I agreed to be involved in the first place. More importantly I question why I would want to continue.*

Montilla: The problem is that rancor like this does not build the party, it weakens it. Existing and prospective GOP activists working as volunteers do not want to spend their time embroiled in nonsensical internal battles, they want to beat Democrats. The problems we have in our county, state and nation are real and potentially detrimental to our way of life. The Macomb GOP will be what all of the delegates and activists in the county want to make of it. I hope we can now get past this bitterness and come together to attend to the work at hand and focus on victory.