



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036
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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
1/15/04

CONTACT: Liz Hackett
202-785-0266

State Leader Nominated for Award

Mary Adams from Maine receives nomination for Reagan Award

WASHINGTON – The Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) established the Reagan Award in 1998. Each year it is bestowed on an individual who works towards a sense of utilitarianism. It goes to someone who puts their organization, their morals and the advancement of the conservative cause above themselves.

Mary runs the Center-Right meeting in Maine. She does an amazing job organizing the meetings. In November she brought in a speaker from the foster care system. Once she heard about the situation some children faced she was quick to act. She helped organize a state-wide march. Even the governor made an appearance. Mary puts conservative causes about her and definitely deserves this award.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Mary is often overlooked because her role involves organization even though she deserves it, she has never been one to demand the spotlight.”

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Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.



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State Leader Nominated for Award

Alan Ashkinaze from New Jersey receives nomination for Reagan Award

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In Northern New Jersey, Alan Ashkinaze leads the grassroots activists. He is a wonderful moderator who always looks for new ways to improve upon a successful meeting. This meeting is heavily attended by the state legislators and state party staff.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Alan works hard to advance conservative ideas in an increasing liberal state.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Mickey Barnett from New Mexico receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Mickey is a volunteer state delegate in New Mexico. He has been in politics for many years. He helped lead the fight against the governor's special session to raise taxes at the end of 2003. On top of this, Mickey heads the Center-Right coalition meeting in his state once a week.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, "Mickey is a jack of all trades. Not only does he work for the Republican Party, but he owns a law firm and hosts a weekly Center-Right coalition meeting."

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State Leader Nominated for Award

DeAnn Bjorson from North Dakota receives nomination for Reagan Award

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DeAnn Bjorson started a Center-Right coalition meeting in North Dakota just before the holidays. This meeting promises to be a great success because of her enthusiasm and the optimism of the members she has gathered thus far.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “DeAnn has worked hard to make the Center-Right Coalition meeting in her state a success. I predict it will only get better.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Greg Blankenship from Illinois receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Greg couldn't get all of the people in IL together so instead he offered to do a Center-Right Conference Call once a week. This allows people from all over the state to call in and find out about conservative issues in their state.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, "Greg's Institute researches all kinds of political information and his conference call is the only meeting done via phone. His creative visualization is helping Illinois become more conservative."

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Bob Williams and Dan Meade Smith from Washington receive nominations for Reagan Award

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Bob and Dan are a plethora of information concerning Washington State. Bob works for the Evergreen Foundation and Dan works for the Washington Policy Center. Although both Bob and Dan are extremely busy they still make time to head the Center-Right Coalition meeting in Washington.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Dan and Bob have worked hard to keep their Center-Right Coalition meeting going for over a year. It is important to have good conservatives in a liberal state.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Matt Brouillette from Pennsylvania receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Matt Brouillette moderates a Center-Right Coalition meeting in Pennsylvania that works very closely with the state legislators. They do a wonderful job of defending taxpayers' rights.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Its hard to get people of different ideologies to agree to come together, but Matt accomplishes this task well.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Helene Denney from Nevada receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Helene works for the Nevada Policy Research Institute. Even though Helene is not a political person she is always willing to help out with the Center-Right meeting in her state as often as she can. Her promoting and people skills make the Nevada Center-Right Meeting a success.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Helene is not a policy person but she was more than willing to step up and help out with the Center-Right coalition meeting in Nevada.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Gerry Dickenson from South Carolina receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Gerry works for the South Carolina Policy Council. He has fought many tax increases in the past and was recently awarded a sword from Americans for Tax Reform.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “The Reagan award would look ecstatic next to a hero of the tax payer sword.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Brandon Dutcher from Oklahoma receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Brandon is employed by the Oklahoma Policy Council. He works very hard and has recruited over 25 people to attend the Center-Right Coalition meeting in his state.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Brandon work for the Oklahoma policy council has not interfered with a great Center-Right Coalition meeting. Although it is a new meeting, with Brandon’s help it will continue to be strong.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Greg Edwards from New Jersey receives nomination for Reagan Award

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While working as the President of the Center for Policy Research in New Jersey, Gregg Edwards also finds time to moderate a center-right coalition meeting in southern New Jersey. The location of the meeting allows the state legislators to attend regularly and work with the activists.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Greg has been a front runner for a smaller governments. His willingness to lead the charge has made him a central figure in New Jersey Politics.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Richard Falknor from Maryland receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Although Richard Falknor keeps himself busy as the Vice President of the Maryland Taxpayers Association, he still finds time to hold a monthly Center-Right Coalition meeting in Annapolis. He is a hard worker who works closely with the state legislators to defend the rights of taxpayers across the state.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Sarah is a great contact for the Center-Right Coalition in Indiana. Although she’s not the face of the group her hard work keeps it going.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Chip Faulkner from Massachusetts receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Chip works in Massachusetts for the Citizens for Limited Taxation. Chip not only helps with the Massachusetts Center-Right meeting he travels to meetings in other states as well, all in addition to the work he does for CLT.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Chip not only runs a great meeting in Massachusetts he is always willing to travel to other states and help with meetings there as well.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Rick Watson from Florida receives nomination for Reagan Award

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This year Rick Watson was named as a nominee. Rick is a grassroots activist who is also a lawyer. He helps lead the Center-Right Coalition meeting in Florida. He has worked very hard to expand the leadership of the meeting and has since acquired speakers such as Johnny Byrd and other important leaders in his state. Rick is always willing to take on a new project and is very eager to offer suggestions. He's a real team player.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Rick deserves this award because he is influential to the Florida Center Right coalition meeting. His behind the scenes work deserved to be recognized.”

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Jason Williams from Oregon receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Jason not only works with the Center-Right Coalition meeting in Oregon, recently he gained enough signatures to repeal a series of tax increases the legislature enacted in his state.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Jason is active in the Center-Right Coalition meeting and in the tax payer association. His recent efforts to repeal the governors’ tax increases will earn him a place in the states history.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Sadie Fields from Georgia receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Sadie Fields moderates a Center-Right Coalition meeting and is constantly striving to improve her meeting which began in November. She is an energetic leader and always has the best interest of Georgians at heart.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Sadie met the challenge of moderating a Center-Right Coalition meeting head on. She has been a tremendous conservative supporter ever since.”

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John Gyles from Alabama receives nomination for Reagan Award

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John deserves the nomination for his unflagging fight against Gov. Bob Riley's tax increases in Alabama in 2003.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, "John is a courageous man who stood up against his national organization to side with the people."

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Henry Kriegel from Montana receives nomination for Reagan Award

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In Montana Henry Kriegel has pulled together a wonderful Center-Right Coalition meeting that grows each month. The members are so committed that many drive for a few hours to attend the meetings.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Henry has worked hard to get the Montana meeting up and running. With his help the meeting will continue to be a huge success.”

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Brandon Lynaugh from Ohio receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Brandon thought it was important for the Buckeye Institute to chair the Center-Right Coalition meeting in Ohio. When he changed jobs he was willing to give up his role as moderator for the good of the group, however he continues to avidly recruit new members.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Although Brandon no longer heads up the Oklahoma Center-Right Coalition meeting he continues to participate and recruits new members.”

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Anne and John McClaughry from Vermont receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Anne and John McClaughry head up the Ethan Allen Institute in Vermont. At their last event they had the governor open for P.J. O'Rourke. Anne heads the Center-Right Coalition meeting in her state and is working to pass TABOR.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, "Anne has worked with a variety of groups to compose a tax payer bill of rights. She is a strong example for conservatives."

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Joe Morris from Illinois receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Joe works for the Lincoln Legal Foundation. His tireless efforts to further the collaboration effort of the conservative party make him a worthy nominee.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “The Illinois meeting has been going for over 12 years and in all that time Joe has never received the credit that he deserves.”

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Sarah Mott from Indiana receives nomination for Reagan Award

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In Indiana, Sarah Mott moderates the monthly center-right coalition meeting held in Indianapolis. Sarah always has a smile on her face and enthusiastically looks for ways to work with grassroots activists.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Even though the Indiana meeting is a new meeting Sarah is more than willing to help assist the Indiana family institute.”

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1/15/04

CONTACT: Liz Hackett
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State Leader Nominated for Award

Kelley Ogletree from Missouri receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Kelley Ogletree began to moderate a center-right coalition in Missouri this past November. She is an extremely hard worker and has gathered a great group of center-right minded state activists. This meeting has been successful from day one.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Kelley was very excited at the prospect of starting a Center-Right Coalition meeting in Missouri. I’m glad she’s on our side.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Karl Peterjohn from Kansas receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Karl runs a Center-Right Coalition meeting in Kansas very far from his office. He works for the Kansas Taxpayers Network. The meetings take place as much as once a week when the legislature is in session.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Karl is willing to drive over an hour to host his Center Right meeting, which meets once a week. The only credit he receives for his determination is a well run meeting and the opportunity to collaborate with everyone from conservative lobbyist to state legislators.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Alan Philip from Colorado receives nomination for Reagan Award

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In addition to being the Executive Director for The Center for the New American Century, Alan Philip moderates a center-right coalition meeting in Denver. The meeting is about a year old and Alan continues to pull together a strong monthly meeting.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Alan’s effort towards the conservative well being of Colorado have been instrumental in the reorganization of a Center-Right meeting.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Linda Runbeck from Minnesota receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Linda works for the Taxpayers League of Minnesota. The governor speaks well of her organization. Linda does a vast amount of work for her group, and goes above and beyond by helping with the state Center-Right Coalition meeting.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Linda is concerned about the conservative welfare of all states she is not only active in Minnesota she takes action involving other states.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Aaron Smith from South Dakota receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Aaron works closely with State Representative Matthew McCaulley to head the Center-Right meeting in South Dakota.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “In South Dakota it can be difficult to coordinate a meeting but Aarons has been up and running for over a year.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Steve Dickenson from Mississippi receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Steve Dickson is an integral part of the center-right coalition in Mississippi. He works hard to further the center-right agenda in the state.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Steve’s members are always willing to participate in ATR’s events. The Mississippi coalition would be a great contribution to any meeting.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Michael Quinn Sullivan from Texas receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Michael not only works for the Texas Public Policy Institute he heads the Center-Right Coalition Meeting in his state. There are 80 members and after each meeting Michael takes the time to scan in all of the handouts for members to read on-line.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “The Texas meeting has always encompassed a great group of people. Among this group Michael shines through his ability to lead the coalition.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

John Taylor from Virginia receives nomination for Reagan Award

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John Taylor works for the Virginia Institute for Public Policy. The Center-Right Meeting he moderates has over 50 members. Recently, when Gov. Warner announced he intends to raise taxes John held his meeting and a combative press conference in the capitol to fight for taxpayer's rights.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “John Taylor does everything from policy briefs to moderating the Center-Right Coalition Meeting in Virginia to press conferences. His efforts against higher taxes help Virginia tax payers sleep better at night.”

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State Leader Nominated for Award

Karen Testerman from New Hampshire receives nomination for Reagan Award

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Karen works for the Cornerstone Policy Research Institute. Her continued efforts to further Conservatives make her a commendable nominee.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, said, “Karen’s endeavors to further lower taxes in New Hampshire have paid off. Groups against higher taxes come to the New Hampshire meetings along with influential state leaders.”

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