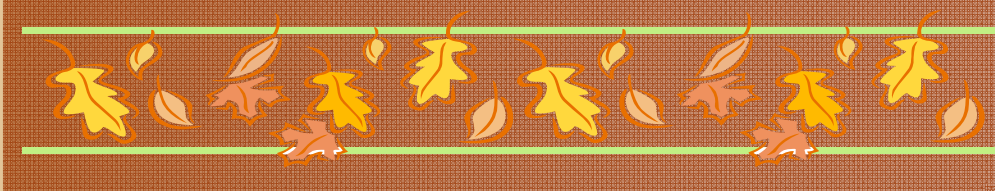


## TISBits

### New Business

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TISB Meeting



Once again, the TISB Annual Meeting was a roaring success and extremely enlightening. Mari put together a very succinct and comprehensive analysis of all U. S. Senate and Congressional races. This report was emailed to members in early September, but if you would like her to email to you again, please send her an email to: [marirusch@attglobal.net](mailto:marirusch@attglobal.net)

Attendees had the opportunity to question the visiting Senators, Congressmen and candidates openly and directly. Each spent between 30 and 45 minutes with us. By and large, the candidates were actually quite refreshing in their passion and convictions. A very brief summary of the visiting candidates comments are noted below. As you can see from the number of candidates who attended the meeting, we were **very** busy for two days.

#### Senator Jim DeMint (SC)

He believes the actual role of Congress has evolved into a charitable organization doling out funds to other countries. It is not the job of Congress to be "do-gooders". He also opposes earmarking because we simply can't afford them any longer. Senator DeMint is leading an effort to help elect Conservative Senators this year and gave us his insight into several close races that TISB will most likely be supporting. He asked us to strongly consider helping Senator John Sununu and former Congressman Bob Schaffer who is running for an open republican seat in Colorado.

#### Senator John Sununu (NH)

Currently John is in a dead even race. He started running ads two weeks ago which should give him a boost against former Governor Jean Shaheen. John is the youngest member of the senate which may account for his boundless energy and enthusiasm for our issues.

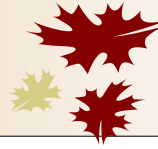
#### Senator Roger Wicker (MS)

Roger has authored legislation regarding health care called, "Making Health Care More Affordable Act", which would provide health care tax credits, would continue support for HSAs and would allow for small business health plans. He voted against minimum wage increase. He takes the position that earmarks make sense in some cases but we should be cautious with them. The current level of earmark spending is 1% of 1/3 of the budget. Roger believes we should abolish the death tax and the capital gains tax.

Chuck Schumer has sent \$4M to MS to run negative ads against Roger.

#### Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL13)

TISB endorsed Vern in 2006 (he won) and he spoke at our 2007 Annual Meeting. He is a successful small business owner in FL and believes strongly in "making small business successful". He is on the Small Business Committee and is ranking Republican member on the Financial Sub Committee. He supports public earmarks only (road, bridges, etc) with full transparency, and wants a balanced budget amendment. TISB has asked Vern to host a reception at his home in Sarasota, FL for the TISB Post-Election Weekend in November.



... and  
the list  
goes on

Congressman Tom Feeney (FL24)

He is Chairman of the House Conservative Fund and believes in smaller government. He will be outspent 3-to-1 by his opponent in this election. He is running for a 4<sup>th</sup> term.

Congressman Joe Knollenberg (MI9)

Joe was a small business owner for 20+ years before running for congress. He is on the Appropriations Committee and is running for his 9<sup>th</sup> term. He currently has a slight (5-6 point) lead over his opponent, Gary Peters, who is the state lottery director, is 100% pro-union and believes in higher taxes and in socialized medicine. This will be Joe's toughest re-election.

Congressman Steve Pearce (NM)

Steve is running for the open republican U.S. Senate seat in New Mexico. He believes in lower taxes, eliminating waste, encouraging better sources of energy, lower spending and further believes that earmarks should be fully transparent and used for public issues only. Polls show him behind but he is a great candidate and would be a very pro small business conservative Senator. We are watching this race and hope the polls starting turning his way.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (MN6)

TISB endorsed Michele in 2006 and ran TV ads for her in her first race, which she won. Michelle always thanks TISB for our support and credits us with helping her win her first race for congress. She just loved watching our positive TV ad and said it gave her the final boost she needed! She informed us that the Alaskan pipeline will stop producing within the next 10 years. Government regulation causes it to take 7-20 years to get another pipeline up and running when it should take no more than 79 days! She further indicated that every American household owes \$455,000 toward the national debt at its current level.

Melissa Hart (PA4)

Melissa served three terms in Congress previously but was narrowly defeated in the last election. She served on the Ways & Means Committee and would regain her position with seniority on that committee if re-elected. She focused her remarks on the death tax and other tax issues. She supports exploration and developing alternative energy, and opposes card check. Her pre-convention polls had her almost tied with her opponent, and she believes her numbers will improve post-convention.

Rob Curnock (TX17)

Rob is a newcomer to national politics and he faces a very tough, strongly entrenched opponent, Chet Edwards, in his district. Rob was very passionate as he spoke about small business and other issues. His district includes President Bush's Crawford ranch. This is a 60%+ Republican district. McCain should do very well here and with his opponent endorsing Obama early and on his VP short list, Rob hopes this will help him beat a democrat in what should be a republican district. We were all very impressed with Rob and thank fellow TISB member Ken Legler for recommending Rob for our consideration.

Congressman Marilyn Musgrave (CO)

Marilyn is a small business owner and is running for re-election in the northeast area of Colorado. She serves on the Small Business Committee in the House and is very passionate about small business. She asked for our support in what will be a very close race. She assured us that we will always be able to count on her vote on small business issues.



Croatia  
Hosts  
TISB

U.S.S.  
Sequoia  
Presidential  
Yacht

TISB is  
going to  
the Ritz...  
BE THERE!

Sarasota  
Florida

November  
15-16th

TISB  
International  
Trip  
2009

TISBeers were graciously hosted by Croatian Ambassador to the U.S., Kolinda Grabor-Kitarovic, on Tuesday evening to an elegant reception at the Croatian Embassy. In addition to the Ambassador, eight Senior Diplomats joined us. Ambassador Grabor-Kitarovic talked at length with us about her country and their willingness to open their doors to entrepreneurs wanting to do business in Croatia. She also offered to help us with our plans to visit Croatia – an offer I am sure Mari will be seizing.

Our thanks go out to TISB member, David Kaye, for hosting us once again on the Presidential Yacht, the U.S.S. Sequoia. There is so much history preserved on the yacht making it a fascinating venue for TISB to hold meetings and receptions. Just think ... we walked the same decks and sat in the same chairs at the same table as did John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and so many others! Wow!

## TISB POST ELECTION EVENT November 15<sup>th</sup> – 16th



Join your fellow TISBeers at the spectacular Ritz Carlton in Sarasota, FL for a **R&R&Lots-of-Fun** weekend. Plan to arrive anytime Friday afternoon (Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>) and leave anytime Sunday afternoon. TISB Chairman Ed Pinto and his wife Joan will be hosting us in their home to a reception and dinner around the pool and we are hoping that Congressman Vern Buchanan and his wife Sandy will host us at their waterfront home as well. We have been able to negotiate a fantastic rate at the Ritz Carlton with beautiful waterfront views.

Make your hotel reservations NOW and lock in the fantastic rate of \$178.  
Our group code is: tsbtsbb.



<https://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Sarasota/Reservations/Default.htm>

DATES OF PROGRAM:  
April 15 through April 22, 2009

DESTINATION:  
Venice, Italy & Dubrovnik, Croatia

We hope you will consider joining your fellow TISB members next year on a trip of a life time! Last year 24 of us traveled with Mari to Budapest, Hungary, Prague, Czech Republic and several went on the post trip to Vienna, Austria.



## The DETAILS

## A Bit About Dubrovnik

All I can say is "We all agreed that we were treated like royalty everywhere we went. Museums, Opera Houses, Libraries, Castles and Churches were opened up exclusively for our TISB group either before or after their public hours. In Prague, we had an exclusive tour of the President's Castle and private meeting rooms that are never open to the public. Two U.S. Ambassadors hosted us for receptions/dinners in their official residences and one U.S. Ambassador hosted us at the Embassy. We don't know how Mari does it, but we are thoroughly enjoying everything she plans for us. We look forward to what she has in store for us in 2009".

Mari plans to visit both Venice and Croatia in mid November after our elections, so we will have more detailed information when she gets back to the U.S.

We would leave the U.S. on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> and fly into Venice, Italy arriving on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. We plan to stay in Venice for 2-3 nights. Depending on our mode of transportation (either by plane, train, bus or yacht), we would then travel to Dubrovnik. We may make stops along the way in Slovenia or Split or Hvar, Croatia. Depending on our stops, we will stay in Dubrovnik 2-4 nights. You would fly home on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from Dubrovnik.

Note: Easter is on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Mari will make arrangements with our Venice hotel to allow for anyone who would like to arrive a few days early.

Post Trip: Mari will check into a couple islands off of Dubrovnik for a 2-4 day visit after our official trip. She will also check into 3-7 day cruises out of both Venice and Athens for those who may be interested in extending their stay in Europe.

Although Dubrovnik is not the Capitol of Croatia, It is probably the best known and most beautiful city of the country. It lies in the southern-most part of Croatia right on the coast of the Adriatic Sea and at the foot the limestone mountain SRD. It has a population of about 50,000 inhabitants. The climate is typical Mediterranean. Dubrovnik ranks among the sunniest cities of Europe.

In 1991 Croatia and Slovenia, which at that time were states within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, declared their independence.

Dubrovnik offers outstanding natural beauty - the vegetation is subtropical and extremely luxuriant (olives, almonds, citrus fruit, rosemary, laurel, etc.) - and well-preserved cultural and historical heritage.



**P.S.  
Just one  
more  
political  
note**

## Card Check Legislation!

Engrave those words into your consciousness. TISB members, Michael Coakley, Bob Bonifas and Scott Harding educated us to the fact that this is one of *the* most important issues that will be facing us in the days ahead. It is a union-sponsored issue which will eliminate the rights of workers to vote on whether or not they want a union in their place of business. The union will have the ability to visit with employees on the job site, during working hours and coerce them, threaten them, bully them into signing a paper indicating their desire for a union. Not only does the employer have no right to throw the union bullies off of their job sites or places of business, but the workers no longer have the ability to vote secretly. **All** of the politicians who spoke to us were adamantly opposed to this issue. However, the legislation passed the House this year and will definitely come before both the House and the Senate next year.

Card Check is one reason TISB needs to do all we can to make certain we have enough pro small business vote in the Senate!

If you aren't aware of this issue now – please get educated and informed.

**THANK YOU**

Many thanks to our great photographer, Ron Bruno!

**THANK YOU**

And to the Capitol Hill Club ... what can we say??? They always do a spectacular job and we are so grateful to them for hosting our meeting again this year.

Special thanks go to Stan Lawson, General Manager; Israel Canada, Director of Catering & Banquets; Andrew Paul, Catering Manager; Shabbir Shah, Food & Beverage Manager; and, of course ...

Executive Chef, Alaa El Din Saleh

Thank you for your fantastic lunch and dinner creations!



This is it ... the FINAL item!

We are at the end of the election cycle where everything happens. The ads will start running in earnest and all of the dollars will be spent. We simply cannot get our small business candidates elected without money. All elections are important to maintaining and adding pro small business candidates – but this year it is absolutely critical!! If you've been waiting for the right time to give – THIS IS IT! If you can possibly squeek out just a little more ... NOW IS THE TIME TO SQUEEK!! The maximum contribution allowed by law is \$5,000 per person.