



Bernard Schoenburg: Obama friend Giannoulias says it

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Nov 13, 2008 @ 12:04 AM

Last update Nov 13, 2008 @ 06:47 AM

He's hobbling, but happy. And he's trying to be a little harder to reach.

State Treasurer ALEXI GIANNOULIAS is sporting a swollen right ankle from a weekend basketball game on stairs Wednesday.

No, he wasn't playing basketball with President-elect BARACK OBAMA when he tore the ligaments. He did it with Obama on past election days, including Nov. 4. And he's still proud as can be that his friend will be the

But there are hassles, too.

"If you guys try calling my cell phone, my voice mailbox is purposefully full, because of the amount of requests are sending resumes, for people who would want to be on (the) transition," Giannoulias told reporters.

Some people, he said, profess to have "a one-pager on how President-elect Obama can solve the economy by 3 percentage points." They talk about a two-paragraph solution, he said, but when sent, "it's like 10 pages

"It's good that some people are enthused about President-elect Obama, but it's getting completely out of hand

"In particular, inauguration tickets. Kids I haven't talked to since grade school. It's unbelievable. I finally know the lottery, but it's been completely overdone. ... I literally get 150 to 250 calls or text messages or e-mails a day

So, just because Giannoulias is friends with Obama, does that mean he's a conduit to the new administration

"No," he said. "Print that."

Giannoulias considers it interesting that some who have sent resumes "are people that are ... pretty high up in the people I never thought would want to leave, who are so successful. They want to be a part of this. It's unbelievable

Giannoulias said he wants to take his mother, who "went door-to-door for four months" for Obama, to the inauguration. If members want to go, he'll try.

"Outside of that, I just don't know," he said.

He said if he has the chance, he does refer job-seekers to go online to contact the transition team, where the transition site is www.change.gov.

He also thinks people don't need to be in such a rush.

"There are a lot of positions, but there are also a lot of requests," Giannoulias said. "And people have to und people out there. And Senator Obama, er, President-elect Obama, is not going to select them because he ki going to try to find the best people out there. I think he understands the pressure too, but people have to be Giannoulias, 32, won his post as state treasurer in 2006 with the backing of Obama. He said Wednesday he last week "absolutely unbelievable."

"I wake up in the morning, I still pinch myself," he said. "Politically, it's great, 'cause I really believe in his poli a great job turning this country around. And personally, to be friends with someone who's, you know, the pre exciting for me to know what a genuinely great guy he is."

And about the chance one day to play basketball with the president at the White House?

"As soon as my ankle gets better and if there's an invitation, I'll try to make time for that," he said. "That'll be Giannoulias, incidentally, is far from the only politician getting lots of requests for tickets to the inauguration.

"I'm getting calls for inauguration tickets from people who I know hate me," state Sen. RICKEY HENDON, D-

Kent Redfield Scholarship

KENT REDFIELD, a leader for years in research into campaign contributions in Illinois, is getting a scholarsf Springfield named after him.

The Kent Redfield Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student based on merit and financial need.

Redfield, 60, retired Sept. 1 after 29 years at UIS. But he remains professor emeritus, is continuing some gr will probably teach a class per semester starting in the new year.

Among other duties, Redfield ran the legislative intern program at the university from 1979-99, and a couple DONOVAN PEPPER, helped push for the formation of the scholarship fund.

Hosick, of Chicago, is director of human resources for U.S. Equities Realty. Redfield served as project ment says Redfield always provided a solid, unbiased, fact-based look at politics in Springfield.

"He would say, 'Follow the money, follow the power,'" Hosick said.

Hosick talked with STACEY WILLENBORG, director of corporate and foundation relations at UIS and anothe possible Redfield fund, and enlisted support of Pepper, a lobbyist for Walgreen Co.

Willenborg said the goal of such funds is to be endowed, by reaching \$25,000, so the minimum scholarship student in political science, and will probably start next fall.

"I'm very flattered and very humbled about it," Redfield said of the scholarship fund.

People interested in contributing to the fund can contact the UIS office of development at 206-6058.

More election results

The co-owner of a downtown Springfield restaurant who now lives in Michigan has become an elected officia ROSS RICHARDSON, who with his wife ANN LAURENCE owns The Feed Store on the South Old Capitol F

Traverse County Board of Commissioners. His district includes parts of Traverse City and Garfield Township board in 20 years.

Laurence said it was her husband's first attempt at public office. The couple has owned The Feed Store for 3 Springfield, they have been full-time Traverse City residents since 2003.

Another election winner last week was 27-year-old JAROD HITCHINGS of Waggoner, an insurance agent w the 21-member Montgomery County Board from 14 to 15. He defeated incumbent Republican TOBY DEAN

Hitchings first filed petitions for public office at age 19 and won a four-year term on the Panhandle School Di Waggoner Library Board and hopes to be able to keep that seat even after he's sworn into his county board

And Dr. CHRISTOPHER WANGARD of Troy, a former Springfield resident, was elected to the Madison Cou was re-elected last week. His parents, BOB and CHERYL, live in Springfield.

The number of Republicans on the 29-member Madison County Board grew from eight to nine with the elect that Metro East county, near St. Louis, are Democrats.

Wangard, a pediatrician, works in Edwardsville.

Bernard Schoenburg is political columnist for The State Journal-Register. He can be reached at 788-1540 or

Copyright © 2008 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons](#) license, except where noted.