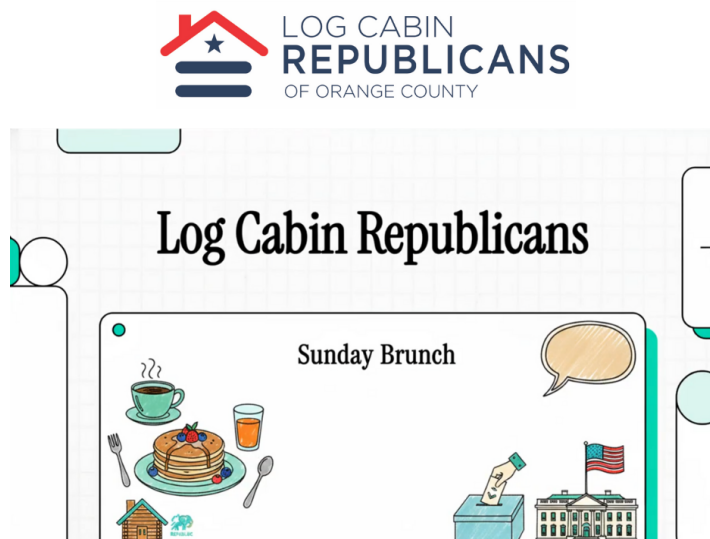


LCROC: A Study Guide



[Episode 21: Sunday Brunch with Special Guest Speaker Will O'Neill, OCGOP Chairman](#)



[Video Overview: Sunday Brunch with Special Guest Speaker Will O'Neill, OCGOP Chairman](#)

Key Terms Glossary

Log Cabin Republicans of Orange County: The hosting organization for the Sunday Brunch with Special Guest Speaker Will O'Neill, OCGOP Chairman. The chapter's functions include providing political pressure, advocating for initiatives, and promoting legal rights. It has built a community based on five "wells": political, social, charitable, educational, and resources.

Honorable Will O'Neill: Elected Chairman of the Republican Party of Orange County in 2025. He previously served on the Newport Beach City Council from 2016-2024 and was Mayor in 2020 and 2024.

Political Engagement: The event provides members and allies with direct access to the Chairman of the Republican Party of Orange County.

Social Capital: Defined as the networks of relationships and shared values that facilitate cooperation. It is explicitly described as "goodwill, neighborliness, and support."

Board of Directors: The leadership of the chapter, whose stewardship is essential to its resilience. The board consists of: President Jesse B., Vice-president Anthony J., Treasurer John M., Interim-secretary Brendon M., and Board member at-large Andy R.

Community "Wells": A term used to describe the five pillars of the community built by the chapter: political, social, charitable, educational, and resources. This diversification is cited as crucial to the organization's ongoing success.

Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797): a foundational figure for conservatism. For Burke, conservatism was not about resisting all change or adhering to a rigid ideology. Instead, it was about preserving a stable framework of traditional liberties—such as civil rights, trial by jury, and representative government—to allow for gradual, evolutionary progress.

Republican Party: The modern Republican Party traces its origins directly to the 1850s, when it was forged as a coalition of antislavery leaders. These founders, who came from the Democratic, Whig, and Free-Soil parties, were united by a single, urgent purpose: to oppose the extension of slavery into new American territories like Kansas and Nebraska. This was their primary, unifying goal.

Quiz

Directions: Select the answer that best answers each question.

1. What is the historical significance of the name "Log Cabin Republicans"?

- A. It is named after the Black Cat Tavern, a log-cabin-style building where a foundational protest occurred.
- B. It refers to Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican President, who was born in a log cabin.
- C. It symbolizes the party's grassroots origins among rural, working-class Americans.
- D. It honors Theodore Roosevelt's commitment to conservation and the building of cabins in national parks.

2. Who is the featured guest speaker at the Sunday Brunch event?

- A. Will O'Neill
- B. Edmund Burke
- C. Abraham Lincoln
- D. Leonard Olds

3. List three of the five community "wells" the board members and chapter have built.

_____, _____, _____

4. Match the board member to their correct title. Write the letters of the answers next to the names of the board members.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ____.1. John M. | a. Board Member at-large |
| ____.2. Jesse B. | b. Interim-secretary |
| ____.3. Andy R. | c. President |
| ____.4. Brendon M. | d. Treasurer |
| ____.5. Anthony J. | e. Vice-president |

5. The text states that the Log Cabin Republicans of Orange County remain "diligent for good reason." What is the primary reason given?

- A. Because the Republican Party needs a stronger coalition to win elections.
- B. Because the gay community continues to face obstacles.
- C. Because members face elevated risks of substance use and require resources.
- D. Because political opposition requires constant pressure and advocacy.

Short Answer Quiz: Answer Key

Answer Key

1. B. It refers to Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican President, who was born in a log cabin.
2. A. Will O'Neill
3. Any three of the following wells: political, social, charitable, educational, resources.
4. Match the board member to their correct title.

d. Treasurer	1. John M.
c. President	2. Jesse B.
a. Board Member at-large	3. Andy R.
b. Interim-secretary	4. Brendon M.
e. Vice-president	5. Anthony J.
5. B. Because the gay community continues to face obstacles.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Choose one of the following essay prompts. Answer the prompt in five to 11 original sentences. Write full sentences by restating the prompt. Use evidence from the source to support your claims. Also, cite the evidence within your essay. Then, check the accuracy, spelling, and grammar of your essay.

Essay Questions

- A. Analyze (look closely at the specifics) the ways in which the Sunday Brunch with Special Guest Speaker Will O'Neill, OCGOP Chairman serves to advance the stated mission and "wells" (political, social, charitable, educational, resources) of the Log Cabin Republicans of Orange County.
- B. Discuss the strategies the organization employs, as detailed in the event invitation, to foster a sense of community, build "social capital," and engage both existing members and newcomers.
- C. Compare, look closely at the similarities, between Edmond Burke's philosophy, Abraham Lincoln, and Ronald Reagan.

Main Themes:

Main Themes and Important Ideas/Facts:

The organization positions itself within the historical lineage of the Republican Party, tracing its philosophical roots to figures like Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, and the political thinker Edmund Burke. Its foundational mission is to advocate for liberty and equality under the law, contributing to a stronger Republican Party by championing the civil rights of all individuals, with a specific focus on the well-being of the LGBT community.

The name "Log Cabin Republicans" is a direct homage to Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican President, who was born in a log cabin. The organization identifies with Lincoln's principles of liberty and equality under the law.

- Quote on Legacy: The chapter emphasizes looking to the past for guidance, citing Lincoln's belief that "The struggle of today is not altogether for today – it is for a vast future also."

Historical and Ideological Roots

- Foundational Conservatism (Edmund Burke): The organization's philosophy aligns with the principles of political thinker Edmund Burke (1729-1797). For Burke, conservatism was not about rigid opposition to change but about preserving a stable framework of traditional liberties—such as civil rights, trial by jury, and representative government—to allow for gradual, evolutionary progress. The core conservative question is whether a change strengthens or undermines the rule of law and the continuity of rights.
- Key Moments in Rights Advocacy: Foundational moments in the organization's history include the Black Cat Tavern protest in 1967 and Ronald Reagan's successful opposition to Proposition 6 in 1978.
- A Coalition of Shared Values: The Republican Party is described as a coalition with shared values, including a preference for checks-and-balances, transparency, local control, individual responsibility, the rule of law, volunteerism, and a strong U.S. military.
- Key Republican Figures: The party's values are exemplified by notable figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan.

LCR OC employs a multifaceted strategy built upon five "wells" or strategic pillars: Political, Social, Charitable, Educational, and Resources. A central tenet of its operational philosophy is the cultivation of "social capital"—defined as goodwill, neighborliness, and support—through community events and volunteerism. This social capital is viewed as the foundation for growing the chapter's political influence. The organization's leadership, guided by a principle of "stewardship," actively works to address the unique challenges faced by the gay community, including discrimination, abuse, and lack of support.

The planning into, through, and beyond events and initiatives are attributed to the LCR OC Board.

Board of Directors

- President: Jesse Bluma
- Vice-president: Anthony Johnson
- Treasurer: John Merrill
- Interim-Secretary: Brendon Moeller
- Board member at-large: Andy Ramirez

Neighborliness and Community Service: The chapter emphasizes volunteering and community support. Members are encouraged to engage in civic life by attending meetings, contacting elected officials, and volunteering.

Happiness and Leadership: A positive and collaborative spirit is central to the chapter's success. According to President Jesse Bluma, "Overall, happiness is the key to our success. We are here to be helpers. We are here to be leaders in our community. We are here to support the chapter."

An upcoming Sunday Brunch, featuring OCGOP Chairman Will O'Neill, exemplifies this strategy by creating a venue for political engagement, networking, and community building, while celebrating the chapter's 40th anniversary.

- Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026
- Location: An elegant restaurant overlooking the harbor in Newport Beach, CA
- Sponsorship Opportunities: The chapter welcomes sponsors to help support the event and make it a memorable experience for all attendees.