

Politics



Eric Koch spoke to the Optimist Club on January 26 about his political experience. He was involved in the Presidential campaign and spent several days at the Republican convention.

Eric is home schooled and works at Fareway. He has been in two musicals at the *Chandelier* Theater, including the lead in Music Man.

In August 2011 Eric's father invited him to see Rick Santorum. This started his interest in politics. In November he started going to campaign events. Then he started doing hands-on organizing. He helped organize 200 people at the Mid-America Center. They also went door-to-door to put in yard signs.

In April Rick Santorum dropped out of the race. Then Eric went to work for the Romney campaign. Eric went door-to-door to talk to people and put in yard signs every day after school.

Eric went to Tampa for the Republican National Convention as a Page. Each state could send two Pages. As a page he was on the convention floor and spent a lot of time passing out signs. Eric learned how the game of politics is played.

Eric spent 5 days at the convention. Each day there he got up at 6:30 a.m. and started work at 7:30. The convention would start at 1:00 p.m. He helped pass out signs for each speaker. From the speakers he heard, Eric thinks Rand Paul and Marco Rubio are up-and-coming politicians in the party.

Eric identified the three biggest problems he thinks the country has:

- Lack of respect for religion
- Family values
- Unbalanced federal/state relationship