

Franklin Center and Ripon Society Host Third Bipartisan Chiefs luncheon of 2019

WASHINGTON, DC – As this new era of divided government completes its third month, The Ripon Society and Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange hosted another luncheon on Thursday with the Chiefs of Staff of Capitol Hill. In attendance were fourteen top staffers, Republican and Democrat, who were given the all-too-uncommon opportunity to meet and converse with colleagues of the opposite party.

Just as everyone took their seats, guests were greeted with an impromptu appearance by former Ohio governor John Kasich. A longtime friend of The Ripon Society and Franklin Center, Kasich addressed the group and called for renewed civility and cooperation between the two parties and emphasized the importance of having concrete ideas to present to the American people – being able to say what they are for rather than what they are against.

Headlining yesterday’s event was veteran House aide John Sampson, now a representative for Microsoft, who gave a presentation on the new technologies that are reshaping how the work of Congressional offices is being done.

With the recent establishment of the bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, there has been a push to fully bring the work of the legislative branch into the 21st century.

According to Sampson, this includes improved systems within offices to foster collaboration and communication between staffers, and it also includes the utilization of cloud computing to improve the productive capabilities of



John Sampson addresses the Chiefs of Staff



Gov. John Kasich discusses the necessity of bipartisan cooperation

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each office.

“Private Sector companies play a critical role in solving the big problems facing the public sector,” stated Jim Conzelman, President and CEO of The Ripon Society and Franklin Center. “By equipping us with the technology that can make the work of the policymakers here in Washington more streamlined and more efficient, elected officials can better serve the people they came here to represent.”

According to Conzelman, this is the third gathering in a year-long series of luncheons intended to bring together the behind-the-scenes leaders of Capitol Hill. This is also the sixth bipartisan event the Franklin Center has hosted so far in 2019. This week’s upcoming event will be a bipartisan breakfast discussion with the co-chairs of the US-China Working Group, Democrat Rick Larsen (WA-2) and Republican Darin LaHood (IL-18), where the conversation will focus on the pair’s recent visit to China.

The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy organization, which has promoted enlightened, balanced, and unbiased international policy discussion on major international issues for over 30 years. The Franklin Center also hosts bipartisan events with Members of Congress on a variety of topics here in Washington, D.C. and across the country.

For more information on the organization, please visit its website at www.franklincenter.us.

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