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Yob-Anuzis Spat Is Back On

The Republican heavyweight grudge match between National Committeeman Saul ANUZIS and John YOB of Strategic National is back on.

Anuzis called out the Republican strategist and an ally in his weekly Sunday e-mail to supporters for trying to submarine his Committeeman re-election efforts.

Anuzis called Kevin HEINE and Yob "hired guns who support anyone or any issue as long as they're paid" after Heine used "cheap political shots and lies" in a post on Right Michigan that cut into Anuzis' qualifications to serve a full four-year term.

"This is all about money and power. John Yob's gang is in this for different reasons than you and me," Anuzis wrote. "This is the same M.O. this particular group has used for years to manipulate the process for financial gain."

Anuzis is running for his first full four-year term as National Committee, an unpaid post, at the May 19 Michigan Republican Party (MRP) convention at Cobo Hall in Detroit. Around 2,600 delegates will decide on the position, which is one of three individuals who represent Michigan and official Republican National Committee functions.

Anuzis won a special election for the post in 2010 after Keith BUTLER resigned.

At the moment, Anuzis doesn't have an opponent, which puts him in a good position of being reelected (See "Anuzis To Run Again, Who Will Challenge?" 3/26/12).

But there is a "Dump Saul Anuzis" Facebook page in operation and Heine is a contributor to that effort. Anuzis' critics hang him for the Republicans' big losses and heavy debt load from the disastrous 2006 and 2008 elections, when Anuzis was the Michigan Republican Party (MRP) chairman.

They also rope Anuzis into concocting the way in which his preferred presidential candidate, Mitt ROMNEY, ended up with Michigan's 30th voting delegate during the Feb. 28 presidential primary when party rules seemed to indicate that last delegate belonged to Rick SANTORUM. Without the 30th delegate, Romney would have technically tied the state with Santorum on the delegate front, 15-15.

In his Friday post on Right Michigan, Heine also brought up the case in 2008 when 300,000 fliers for GOP presidential candidate John McCAIN were left in McCain's abandoned

Republican headquarters and volunteers were threatened with legal action if they were touched (See "The Case of the 300,000 McCain Fliers," 10/8/08).

Anuzis said the post and another in the Tea Party News is about Yob & Co.'s "own power." He said Yob working for four different presidential campaigns this primary season – Jon HUNTSMAN, Herman CAIN, Newt GINGRICH and Santorum – as proof that they are about manipulating the process for financial gain.

Asked by MIRS if he worked for Yob, Heine said he was a "freelancer and that's as far as we'll go with that." Asked if it was fair to categorize him as working with Yob for power and gain, Heine said, "he does not know me that well and I don't appreciate the challenge to my integrity." When asked if he was running against Anuzis for committeeman, Heine said, "Not at the present time."

Yob said when he originally thought Anuzis' e-mail, which "disparaged me personally and my company," was an "April Fool's Joke." He wrote in a separate e-mail to Republicans that over the last 10 years his company has helped elect Gov. Rick SNYDER, Lt. Gov. Brian CALLEY, Attorney General Bill SCHUETTE, former Secretary of State Terri Lynn LAND and dozens of other candidates.

Yob returned fired by saying Anuzis is a political consultant with Coast to Coast Strategies.

"He makes a great deal of money off of National Popular Vote and other political organizations," Yob wrote. "I don't judge him for that, but for him to position himself as some sort of volunteer activist, and to attack me for being a campaign professional is being less than honest.

"He needs to feed the family like the rest of us, and chooses politics as his method of earning a living. Nothing wrong with that, but it seems more than a bit disingenuous for him to attack me on that issue."

Yob, who stressed he wasn't supporting a candidate against Anuzis at this time, said he doesn't want to go back to Anuzis v Yob fight of 2005-09 when Anuzis was Chairman.

"In those years, we lost everything. Since then, we have won everything," Yob said. "I like things a lot better these days, and hopefully you do, too."