

# The Trumpeter

Newsletter for the North Pinellas Republican Club  
January 2015

This is the first newsletter of the New Year so it is a work in progress. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please call Larry Marlin at 727-784-7795 or email at [lpmarlin@yahoo.com](mailto:lpmarlin@yahoo.com). Additionally, if you have any inputs for the newsletter (e.g. events, meetings), please call Larry.

We'll begin this issue with Jim Downes's first President's Letter:

Dear Members,

Happy New Year!!! And may God bless all of us in the upcoming year.

I wish to thank all of you for honoring me with the position of President for the next two years. It is an honor to have your respect and trust.

The North Pinellas Republican Club is highly esteemed by all members of the Republican Party throughout our county as well as our state. And the credit for this success is due to the dedication, hard work and at many times brilliant ideas from our board, our directors, volunteers and more specifically to Rachelle Warmouth, our past president.

Over the past few years our club's reputation has grown to become one of the best clubs in Pinellas County. Our activities such as the "Spring Fling and Chili Cook-off" are the envy of the county. The attendance of the members and our elected officials is evidence of their respect and support.

Over the next few years many new and exciting challenges are being placed before us. This next electoral cycle will include a presidential election, a senatorial election and many city and county positions will be coming up for reelection. Some Republican incumbents are considering retiring and the Republican Party of Pinellas will need clubs to identify new excellent candidates, funding events, and volunteering teams to meet these needs. I believe our club is in the best position and has the best members to begin this process.

And with this in mind, and as your president, I would like to introduce a theme within our club which will highlight our Republican values of fiscal conservatism, love of family, strong prosperity, and a strong America. This theme will be called The Right Path for America and will guide our club's activities and monthly meetings. We will select speakers, potential candidates and writing groups. When possible our fund raising activities will promote this theme. The Right Path for America will present our club as a positive, inspiring and relevant organization that encourages leaders in our community to join us and to promote our Republican values. Through this process we will grow our membership, gain the support of elected and potential candidates and become an authoritative voice within our community.

These next two years will be the most important years of The North Pinellas Republican Club, and our duty is to begin the process of revitalizing the Republican Party here in Pinellas County. This past election voters demonstrated their sentiment by favoring Republicans. Our club is key to continuing this change. By providing clear and positive examples through education, open discussions and good old fashioned determination, we can not only resolve the poor policies of the past but be the voice of wisdom, reason, and prosperity. As members we can say we are an organization whose influence perpetuates our party's greatness.

Your President,

Jim Downes

## Why Join The North Pinellas Republican Club?

Hi, it's Larry again. When Kim and I moved back to Pinellas from Texas, our good friends the Hickmans said we should rejoin the NPRC. We did, and we have not regretted it. We have listened to several outstanding political presentations (Gus Bilirakis and the candidates forum come to mind right away). We were also able to quickly join an active group of like minded people. When we talk to someone at the club we know we are speaking to someone with similar values. There are, of course, nuances, but we can be pretty sure we have a receptive listener. At the same time, we learn so much from each person we talk to – different perspectives, different arguments – but the same basic values.

Additionally, the club offers such a great social outlet. It seems there is always something being planned (e.g. Christmas party, chili cook off) to look forward to. One thing I had not expected was the Book Club (see the report below). It is fun and informative. If you have other interests, why not see if other members might want to join you? I can think of the possibility of a dinner club, travel club or photography club all affiliated with the NPRC.

So, I guess this is also a pitch to bring your Republican friends to the club. The club really has so much to offer, but it can be made even better by the addition of more good Republicans.

## Last Meeting

Here is a brief summary of the last meeting. Elsworth Warmouth and I will cover it in depth, with pictures, in the next issue.

The meeting was held at the Dunedin Fine Art Center. It was a festive Christmas party with President Rachelle Warmouth handing out gifts to her out-going officers and directors. She also recognized the winner of the Leadership award, Pam McAloon. In addition, she announced the new officers and directors. She spoke of the successful year the club had and plans for the future. She, of course, joins the new Board of Directors as Immediate Past President. The evening was fun with eating, drinking, and strolling around a very interesting art gallery. Several elected officials attended.

The Newly elected officers and directors she announced were as follows:

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| President                     | Jim Downes  |
| Vice President for Membership | Katherine Kastanis  |
| Vice President for Programs   | Sue Berfield  |
| Secretary                     | Helena Nunn   |
| Treasurer                     | Ron Walker  |
| Directors                     | Debbie Buschman, Heather Johnson, Tim Bryce, and<br>Rachelle Warmouth |

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at Leo's Restaurant on US 19 in Palm Harbor (33286 US 19 N). It will be at 6:30 on Thursday, January 22nd. You may order dinner or drinks or both at Leo's. You might want to arrive a few minutes early to order. The featured speaker will be School Board member Ken Peluso.

Here is a bit of information on Ken. It seems to me he has a better resume than the present President of the United States.

Ken Peluso was elected to the School Board in 2014. He has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Merrimack College in Massachusetts and a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine from Sherman College in South Carolina. In 2013, Dr. Peluso retired as president/owner of Peluso Chiropractic Center in Palm Harbor after 28 years in practice.

Ken has served as chairman of the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County and served on the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council. He was also elected as a Palm Harbor Fire commissioner from 2000-2006. He has served on many community boards including as the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency's board chairman, overseeing East Lake and Palm Harbor libraries and Palm Harbor Parks/Recreation, Palm Harbor Foundation, Helen Ellis Hospital Foundation, Palm Harbor Fire Pension Board and served as president of the Palm Harbor Chamber. He has been honored as Palm Harbor Citizen of the Year, Honorary Mayor and his firm as Palm Harbor Small Business of the Year. Professionally he has been honored as Florida Chiropractor of the Year.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Thursday January 15th 6:30PM      NPRC Board Meeting (officers and directors). Other members may attend if they wish) at Jim Downes's home, 5730 Stag Thicket Lane, Palm Harbor.
- Thursday January 22nd 6:30PM      NPRC Monthly Meeting at Leo's Restaurant, 33286 US 19 N  
Food may be ordered so you might want to arrive a few minutes early if you wish to order dinner.
- Thursday February 12th 6:00PM      Book Club Meeting at Book Club Chairman Pam McAloon's home, 108 Homeport Dr., Palm Harbor. The book discussed will be "Killer Angles" by Michael Shaara.

## Committee Reports

**The Book Club** For me, one of the most interesting events I have attended is the NPRC book club. The group used to meet at the CAC but will now rotate among members' houses. January's meeting was at Ron Walker's home. The book discussed was "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" by Doris Kearns Goodwin. I chose to read a different book. That decision raised eyebrows, but, I think, added to the discussion. One thing you should know about the club: the members do not stand on protocol. Although my choice caused jokes, no one objected. In the end, I learned much from the discussion of the assigned book as well as my own reading. Here is the interesting fact: You don't have to read the book. It helps to read the book, but you will get quite an education just listening to the discussion, and you are not required to make comments. Just enjoy listening if you want.

The Club was developed to combat liberals' tendency to make up facts when they are losing an argument. Have you ever suspected the Democrat you are talking to is making up historical facts? Now you will know he is. The group is fun, lively, and interesting. You should attend. The Committee chairman is Pam McAloon. Just call her at 727-784-4627 and tell her you'd like to come. Or, just come. The date, time and address of the meeting is listed above under "Upcoming Events".

## Club Officers and Directors

This is a repeat of the “newly elected officers and directors”, but I will print it in each issue of the Trumpeter:

|                |                    |                     |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| President:     | Jim Downes         | Board of Directors: |
| VP Membership: | Katherine Kastanis | Debbie Buschman     |
| VP Programs:   | Sue Berfield       | Heather Johnson     |
| Secretary:     | Helena Nunn        | Tim Bryce           |
| Treasurer:     | Ron Walker         | Rachelle Warmouth   |