

The Trumpeter

February 2015

NPRC Newsletter

2nd Edition

Presidents Letter:

North Pinellas Republican Club

President's Address

February 2015

Dear Members,

Well, we are on our way!!! And we're starting 2015 in a great way. We relocated our monthly club meetings, completed our finance audit, kicked off our annual picnic planning, began staging for our Spring Fling, organizing our membership and our book club is completing the "Civil War years" and moving into the Reconstruction period.

In November the CAC closed its doors requiring our club to relocate to a new meeting hall. We are fortunate that the owner of Leo's Restaurant extended a gracious offer to hold our monthly meetings in his facility. In January we held our first meeting at Leo's with 47 members in attendance to hear our newly elected school board member, Ken Peluso, speak. This month on February 19th at 6:30 pm, our speaker will be our club member Diane Nelson, Pinellas' Tax Collector.

As part of transferring to the new board, a review of our fiscal condition is generally performed. This audit was completed this month and as expected there were no issues. Now the new Treasurer, Ron Walker, can assume his duties.

Now the fun starts!!! We are kicking off the Annual Picnic with Joe Barbara again as our supreme barbeque chef. While the date is not fixed at this point, please plan on a fun filled time in mid-March. As soon as we have more information, Tim Bryce will be "broadcasting" the particulars to each of you.

The "Spring Fling" is also in the planning stage with Heather Johnson and Rachelle Warmouth as the planning chairs. Currently mid-April or mid-May are being considered and will be finalized in the next few weeks. Again look for the information in the Newsletter and our broadcasts.

Our Book Club is a wonderful plus to our organization. On February 12th at Pam McAloon's home, "Killer Angles" will be the book topic. It is a historical novel of the battle of Gettysburg by Michael Shaara. Please consider joining. As always, reading the books are helpful but never necessary. In this case, those of us who were raised in the "South" have fought this war so often we can do it from memory!!! Again please come and join the fun and learning experience.

As you read this Newsletter you can see how well laid out it is and our thanks for this is to Larry Marlin, Ellsworth Warmouth and Tim Bryce. These gentlemen work hard every

month to identify individuals to submit articles of political interest, club information and the latest Republican data.

We are on our way!!!! I thank you for being a member of North Pinellas Republican Club and hope to see you at the February 19th club meeting and at all our upcoming events.

Your President

Jim Downes

Last Meeting

The Last meeting was held at Leo's Restaurant, 33286 US 19 in Palm Harbor. I give the address because that is where our next meeting (February 19th) will be held. Our speaker was **Ken Peluso**, new school board member, who spoke on - no surprise here - school board issues. He was introduced by **Sue Berfield** our vice-president for Programs. Ken especially stressed the issue of Common Core. He is quite concerned that common core is taking too much power from the local school boards. He pointed out that local school boards know the issues and are usually better able to deal with them than a one-size-fits-all federal program. He says he is still studying the issue and communicating with other board members and the legislature. The talk was enlivened by a very interested and participative audience. A couple of audience members have had experience as school board members and they also offered insights. Everyone left better educated about a provocative issue of the day.

Jim Downes listed several items the officers are working on and expressed his appreciation for the support he has received. He solicited ideas for actions which might make the club even more interesting to the members. The discussion of club activities and common core continued for those who chose to stay after the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting takes place at Leo's Restaurant in Palm Harbor. It will start at 6:30 and will mark a return to the third Thursday of the month (this meeting will be on February 19th) as our meeting date. The meeting will feature Pinellas tax collector **Diane Nelson**. Diane is one of those elected officials who has a reputation as a popular and demanding supervisor. She possesses a great sense of humor, but also an excellent organizational mind. I remember when Diane took over motor vehicles and made that organization into an efficient and pleasant place to do business. What other county have you ever heard DMV referred to as being an efficient and friendly place? Pinellas is the only one I know of and I've traveled though out the country. Thanks Diane. Sue Berfield provided an excellent resume as follows:

Diane Nelson, CFC, Pinellas County Tax Collector

Diane Nelson has built her career on public service. With 45 years at the Pinellas County Tax Collector's Office, Diane started in 1969 and worked her way through the ranks. She was elected Pinellas County Tax Collector in 2000, her first run at public office. Diane took office



in 2001 and began building an organization that insists on delivering world-class service and finding ways for government to do business better, faster, and cheaper.

Under Diane's leadership, the Pinellas County Tax Collector's Office received the prestigious [Florida Governor's Sterling Award](#) in 2013, Florida's top honor for performance excellence. She remains actively involved with the Florida Sterling Council by serving on its Board of Directors. Diane also served as President of the [Florida Tax Collectors Association](#) for the 2013/2014 term. She was responsible for directing the organization's strategic planning and working with tax collectors statewide on legislative and policy issues.

In addition, Diane is actively involved in the greater Pinellas community, leading the Tax Collector's office every year to participate in community efforts such as food banks, Relay for Life, military troop supply drives and other causes.

Diane also serves on Pinellas County's Business Technology Services Board and is on the Board of Directors for the [Pinellas County Federal Credit Union](#) and [Donate Life Florida](#).

Editorial

What is a newsletter without an editorial? This month Communications Director **Tim Bryce** provides the input. If you have an editorial you would like to see in the newsletter, please send it to me, Larry Marlin, at lpmarlin@yahoo.com. Here is Tim's outstanding contribution:

5.6% UNEMPLOYMENT? - "FEW AMERICANS KNOW THIS" - by Tim Bryce - timbryce.com

In last month's State of the Union speech, President Obama, proudly reported unemployment had dropped to 5.6%, another sure sign the economy had turned around and was ramping up for action. He sounded very convincing didn't he?

Not so fast! On February 3rd, Jim Clifton, the Chairman and CEO at Gallup, publicly rebuked the president by calling into question how the government calculates the unemployment rate. In his rebuttal, which can be found on the Gallup web site (<http://gallup.com/>), he described the missing elements from the calculation, to wit:

"If you, a family member or anyone is unemployed and has subsequently given up on finding a job -- if you are so hopelessly out of work that you've stopped looking over the past four weeks -- the Department of Labor doesn't count you as unemployed. That's right. While you are as unemployed as one can possibly be, and tragically may never find work again, you are not counted in the figure we see relentlessly in the news -- currently 5.6%. Right now, as many as 30 million Americans are either out of work or severely underemployed."

Several people know this already, but Clifton continues:

"Say you're an out-of-work engineer or healthcare worker or construction worker or retail manager: If you perform a minimum of one hour of work in a week and are paid at least \$20 -- maybe someone pays you to mow their lawn -- you're not officially counted as unemployed in the much-reported 5.6%. Few Americans know this."

"Those working part time but wanting full-time work. If you have a degree in chemistry or math and are working 10 hours part time because it is all you can find -- in other words, you are severely underemployed -- the government doesn't count you in the 5.6%. Few Americans know this."

That's just the point, the Obama Administration is counting on the American public not to challenge the data being produced by the various government agencies. Clifton is simply suggesting the government is cooking the books to make things seem better than they really are.

According to current Gallup calculations, Unemployment is still at 7.0%, not the 5.6% offered by the Labor Department. Further, Gallup contends Underemployment is at a staggering 15.8%.

Clifton claims the figures produced by the government are nothing less than a "Big Lie." It makes you wonder what other lies the government is claiming in other departments thereby deteriorating the president's credibility further, and crippling the American public's confidence in government.

Keep the Faith!

For more info:

<http://www.gallup.com/opinion/chairman/181469/big-lie-unemployment.a>

Upcoming Events:

NPRC Book Club: Thursday, February 12th at 6:30. The book club will meet at committee chair **Pam McAloon's** home (108 Homeport Drive, Palm Harbor). The book being discussed is "Killer Angles". Any club member is invited to attend even if you haven't read the book.

Club Meeting: Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 The meeting will be held at Leo's Restaurant, 33286 US Hwy 19 N., Palm Harbor. Featured speaker is tax collector Diane Nelson. Meals are from a set offering of three choices and cost \$15 cash.

NPRC picnic: **Joe Barbara** tells me this will be coming up in March, maybe the 14th or 21st. Tim Bryce's Blast or next month's newsletter will provide more information. Location will probably be John Chesnut Park.

Club Officers and Directors

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