

The Trumpeter

June 2015

NPRC Newsletter

6th Edition

North Pinellas Republican Club

President's Address

June 2015

Dear Members,

It is time to review our clubs achievements over the past few months and review our plans for the rest of the year.

Our administrative accomplishments are many and quite impressive. They were achieved only through the dedicated commitments of our club officers. Our speaker's series, through the efforts of Sue Berfield, has brought several outstanding individuals and significant topics to our monthly club meetings. The club Treasury is well funded and Ron Walker has completed the annual compliance review. The Book Club, through the work of Pam McAloon continues to grow in reputation and attract new members. Katherine Kastanis, Membership Director, is in the final stages of completing the compilation of the clubs current membership status. And our newsletter, "The Trumpeter", through the skilled work of Editor Larry Marlin and his team, is growing is becoming the "must read" for all the latest information our club and the PCREC is involved in.

Our social gatherings have exceeded our loftiest expectations. This success is only through the creative abilities and hard work of Rachelle Warmouth, Helena Nunn, Kim Berfield, Joe Barbara, Ken and Adele Crompton. The "Picnic was well attended on a beautiful day. And this year's Spring Fling with its Derby theme is fast becoming the event of the season. Our club can be proud of the past five month's accomplishments and we thank those members who have worked so very hard to make it a success. Now is time to look to the future and the exciting challenges that face us.

In the 2014 election, voters overwhelmingly called for a redirection of our nation and a return to sounder policies. Our Republican values of fiscal conservatism, love of family, prosperity, and a strong America are the values our citizens are calling for.

The 2016 electoral cycle will be kicking off later this year and this redirection must continue. Earlier in the year I introduced a theme for our club, "The Right Path for America", which reflects these Republican values. For the remaining months of this year and 2016, this theme will be at the core of our activities and programs. We will be focusing on those events which promote our values, our agendas and our candidates. These programs will include our monthly club speakers, Sign Waving teams, Candidate Forums, writing groups, fund raising, attending candidate rally's, etc. Our club, because of its incredible members, is in the best position to make the greatest contribution to returning America to the right path.

Our Republican values are based upon that which was set forth by our Founding Fathers. Only through hard and determined work will we be able to bring America back to its greatness. Please join the "Right Path for America" by making contributions of your ideas, your funding, and willingness to support the many volunteering activities needed to win in 2016.

Your President Jim Downes

Last Meeting



The meeting was called to order at about 7 PM. I didn't really check my watch, but that was the time the meeting was supposed to start, so I'm sure it did. Sue Berfield introduced attorney Brian Aungst. Brian is, at aged 31, a very accomplished attorney. He serves as Chairman of the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, Secretary of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, and General Counsel for the PCREC.

Brian spoke to us about the recent decision by the State House to end their session early. Using some legal terms club member Robert Clark undoubtedly understood, he explained that the House was within its rights for adjourn early because no harm resulted from the House adjourning 84 hours before the constitutional expiration of the session as opposed to adjourning 72 hours prior to the expiration of the session. Further, no harm was done since they made it plain they were not going to accept the Senate's decision to take money from the federal government for expanded

Medicaid requirements. The house feared, probably rightly, that the Obama administration had not the intention, nor ability, to provide this money forever. The Obama plan seemed to be to draw the state into a very expensive new welfare benefit. Also, in apparent violation of a court decision made previously concerning Obamacare, it appeared the Obama Administration intended to blackmail the state into accepting the money and program, by denying the state money in another unrelated program. The House's early adjournment caused an outcry and misleading articles from the liberal press. Brian explained that in a writ of mandamus suit filed by Democrats in the Florida Senate, the state Supreme Court found no harm was done and denied to force the House member to go back to Tallahassee. However, the liberal justices still added a concurring opinion saying the House violated the Florida constitution by adjourning when it did. This decision brought up the further discussion that the liberal Florida Bar has an unfair influence on the governor's ability to choose supreme court justices through Judicial Nominating Commissions. It was a very interesting meeting, and I hope I correctly interpreted what Brian said.

Next Meeting

The June meeting will be held at Leo's Restaurant 111 US 19 North, Palm Harbor. The meeting begins at 7 PM and usually lasts about one hour. Social time begins at 6:30. Order dinner to support our venue and converse with members and speakers while eating. This month we feature Col. Evelio (E.J.) Otero who will speak on Cuban-American relations. If you are like me, you have felt the liberal press is just too giddy about normalizing our relations with Cuba. I am sure Col. Otero will help us see what is the best policy for our country. He is a distinguished military officer with significant background in Latin America/United States affairs. He is a past candidate for US Representative. He recently wrote a very informative editorial in the *Tampa Tribune*. Please come to the meeting to welcome the speakers who have dedicated their time to inform us on important issues. We all know Sue Berfield and know Sue will only chose important and worthwhile speakers. We must attend the meetings to insure outstanding speakers will continue speak to us. in addition, it is a good chance to make new friends and enjoy old ones.

May Book Club Meeting

Bill and Joanne Hickman kindly hosted the Book Club at their home. The book discussed was *Unreasonable Men*. Kim and I had to leave early because of a cat with thunderstorm fears, but Ken Crompton was doing an excellent job of leading a lively discussion. In fact, the conversation went on past 9 PM. It was, as always, interesting and passionate. The Food was great. Thank you Bill and Joanne for your support. By the way, Bill provided the pictures for this month's issue of *The Trumpeter*

June Book Club Meeting

Kim and Ron Walker hosted the Book Club at their house. John Halpin provided the commentary as he brought together the past three meetings of the club. He identified certain trends in our country's history between the civil war and the very early 1900s. One of those trends was a significant increase in population and another was technological advance. As usual the discussion was wide ranging. Food was delicious. Thank you Kim and Ron for all you do.

Tim's Corner

THE MUCKRAKING HAS BEGUN - by Tim Bryce

The political mud slinging has already begun.

The term "muckraking" is attributed to President Theodore Roosevelt, and was originally used in a positive sense describing writers publishing truthful exposes of corruption.

However, after World War I, its connotation was changed to denote a journalist producing adversarial articles, not necessarily laced with truth.

Although the term is seldom used anymore, make no mistake, "muckraking" is very much alive in the 21st century.

Back in January, I wrote an article in which I observed the Republicans "will be placed under intense scrutiny by the main street media who will criticize the slightest hangnail." I was spot on with this comment. As the growing field of GOP candidates for president continue to grow, the media is putting their every word and action under a microscope. Interestingly,

they are being assisted by some new research groups on the web with political agendas.

On the Democrat side, four web sites have been specifically designed to sniff out Republican indiscretions,

"American Bridge,"

<https://americanbridgepac.org/>

"Forward Progressives,"

<http://www.forwardprogressives.com/>

"Factivists,"

<http://factivists.democrats.org/>

and "American Democracy Legal Fund,"

<http://americandemocracy.org/>

all of which were specifically designed to provide as much ammunition as possible to smear GOP candidates. They aggressively research, check facts, and write about every foible a Republican candidate might possess.

I had trouble finding the Republican equivalent of these four sites, but there is one. At first, I thought it might be a conservative think tank or Tea Party related organization, but this was not the case (and it certainly wasn't Fox News). Instead, I found

"America Rising,"

<https://www.americarisingpac.org/>

which essentially has the same mission as its Democrat counterparts, namely to expose "the truth about Democrats through video tracking, research, and communications. By cataloging every Democrat utterance we have the data to ensure they are held accountable for their words and actions." decided to fight fire with fire.(continued on adjacent column)

These five political sites are actively referenced by American journalists intent on digging up dirt on the candidates. Now, the public can review these sites and draw their own conclusions. I forewarn you though, not everything is as truthful as it might seem, and there is a lot of venom spewed.

These well organized and technology based web sites have taken muckraking to new heights. In addition to their research and writing, these groups are known to infiltrate political meetings, fund raisers, and press conferences normally reserved for the media. Again, their intent is to seize on any gaffe a politician may make, large or small, thereby providing the ammunition to attack them. A politician can no longer sneeze without somebody from the opposition taking note and scrutinizing why it occurred.

Consequently, I believe it is safe to say we will witness some rather brutal character assassinations as we go into the 2016 presidential election. Again I ask, why would anyone want to be a politician and suffer through all this? As my father liked to say, "The last guy that was perfect, they hung on a cross." Imagine what they can now do to today's politicians.

Keep the Faith!

Editor's Comments by Larry Marlin

The Republican party will probably have upwards of 20 people trying to win the nomination for president. These potential nominees are all qualified and experienced. A couple have never held political jobs (maybe that is an advantage) but have served in important positions within the private sector. The one thing they all have in common is they are far better than the Democrat presumptive nominee. It simply boggles the mind to think America would chose Clinton over any of these outstanding men and woman.

Ms. Clinton has so much baggage she would have to pay \$100,000 to take it on a flight. That wouldn't present problem because she and her husband have a shadowy and rich foundation to support them and pay the travel bills. "Charity Navigator", the organization which helps people decide where to contribute charity money, can't figure out the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Foundation. It appears obvious the foundation was set up to shield the Clinton's wealth and provide them campaign money.

Back to the Republican candidates. They are this nation's future. Many are young. All are vibrant. All are speaking of individual freedom. We hope they will not turn the nominating process into a "destroy each other" event. If they keep the arguments reasonably civil and focused, they should improve the eventual nominee's chances. We must rally around our party's nominee. Nothing could be worse than Hillary as president.

|

Other Items That Don't Fit Anywhere Else

Imprimis: *Imprimis* is Hillsdale College's newsletter. This month it features a commencement address by Michael Ward of Oxford University. I think it was one of the finest commence addresses I've read. It is full of

intellectual comparisons and thoughts. It is what I would think college students should hear presented at a college graduate's level. It is worth the read. Find it at imprimis@hillsdale.edu.

Editor's notes: I have given up trying to bold people's names. Since I receive inputs from many people, it just became too confusing to bold them the first time they appeared.

Info from Steve Mueller. Steve asked me to point out that Hillsdale College is providing a free online course about the Federalist Papers. Thomas Jefferson says the Papers were the best insight into what America was all about. Enroll or view the course at hillsdale.edu

Upcoming Events

June General Meeting June 18 at 6:30 PM for social and 7 PM for the meeting. The general meeting will be held as usual at Leo's Restaurant, 33286 US Hwy 19 N. The speaker will be Col. Dvelio Otero see notes about June meeting under "Next Meeting". Cost of the meal is \$15 and a choice of three items is offered, however other items available on request.

*June 18, 2015
Leo's Restaurant*

No July Meeting

*August 20, 2015
Leo's Restaurant*



PINELLAS COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday July 13, 2015 (2nd Monday of Every Month) 7:00 PM
Banquet Masters 13355 49th St N, Clearwater, FL 3376**